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LD201357 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Infiltration in North—The IDF killed three "terrorists" who were detected trying to enter Israel south of Kibbutz Ramim early 20 January, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio. An IDF soldier was wounded in the exchanges of fire. Commenting on the incident in an interview with IDF radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said there is no doubt that the infiltrators were PLO members who were seeking to enter the Galilee in an attempt to carry out "a murderous terrorist attack."

Territories—Security forces arrested 11 suspects in East Jerusalem in connection with recent riots, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that one of the detainees is believed to have participated in an assault on an Israeli policeman. On the situation in refugee camps under curfew, the radio said the IDF is allowing UNRWA food convoys to enter the camps, though it prevented the entry of trucks carrying food from Israeli leftists into the Gaza Strip. Rabin stressed in his IDF radio interview that "there is no policy of starving the residents who are under curfew in the camps."

Outside Israel, the clandestine Palestinian Al-Quds radio called on Palestinians to escalate their "uprising" by declaring a new general strike and by renewing their "tumultuous popular demonstrations" on 22 January. On the diplomatic level, the Egyptian ambassador delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres affirming the urgent need to promote the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported. Mubarak stressed that this can only be accomplished "through the international conference which will lead to direct negotiations."

Delegation to USSR—The Foreign Ministry welcomed a Soviet announcement that the USSR will permit an Israeli diplomatic delegation to visit Moscow, but expressed regret that the Soviet Union has again presented conditions for the resumption of full diplomatic relations, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli position came in response to a statement by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, carried by TASS, indicating the USSR's willingness to allow several Israeli Foreign Ministry officials to visit Moscow to familiarize themselves with the work on Israeli interests carried out by a department of the Netherlands Embassy. In the same briefing, Gerasimov denounced Israel's "unlawful acts" against the Palestinians and reaffirmed that a restoration of diplomatic relations is only possible within the framework of a Middle East political settlement.

In further reportage on the issue, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the delegation to Moscow will consist of four Israeli diplomats who will receive 2-month visas. The radio noted that the Soviet announcement had followed Israeli-Soviet talks in Helsinki, during which the Israeli side was informed of the Soviet leadership's intention to put the Middle East issue "at the top of its agenda." THE JERUSALEM POST likewise cited reports from Helsinki that the USSR plans to initiate "intensive diplomatic moves in the near future in an attempt to advance the peace process."

In a separate development, Jerusalem radio reported the arrival in Israel of Soviet Jewish dissident Yosef Begun, following the successful conclusion of his 16-year struggle to leave the USSR.

Lebanon

Hostages—The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited news agency reports that Terry Waite and some 23 other foreign hostages were recently handed over to Iranian Revolution Guards by the pro-Iranian organizations previously holding them. Iran has decided to stop all bargaining, the report added, and it believes that negotiations on the hostages should be conducted through Iran alone.

LF Executions—A Lebanese Forces (LF) statement broadcast by Radio Free Lebanon announced the execution of two LF members who had confessed to crimes including treason, sabotage, and plotting assassination attempts. The clandestine Voice of the People radio said the two men were accused of planning to assassinate LF leaders Samir Ja'ja' and Karim Paqraduni, adding that the executions have cast gloom over the fate of 26 other detained LF members who face similar charges.

Iraq

An AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial cited by Voice of the Masses radio noted that "certain Arab parties" have recently held contacts with Iran that are "surprising and raise question marks." Such moves, the editorial maintained, conflict with both the letter and spirit of the Amman summit resolutions and constitute a return to the old policy of "exonerating" the Iranian regime. They must be seen only as an Iranian attempt to isolate Iraq from its Arab brothers and therefore do not serve but "directly harm" Arab solidarity.

Libya

In a speech to a Basic People's Congress session, broadcast by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned against divulging information to foreign journalists because their reports may be used by "enemy" intelligence services which probe Libya's "internal front." Libyans should neither answer "unnecessary questions" nor volunteer information about the military or economic situation of the country, he indicated.

Afghanistan

The seven-party Afghan rebel alliance said that it will not meet with UN intermediary Diego Cordovez, accusing him of "undermining" the guerrillas' military gains at political talks, a statement reported by AFP said. Asserting that the Geneva talks "revolve around Moscow's interests," the alliance demanded that the process be "abandoned." The statement reiterated the rebels' rejection of any compromise with the communists, saying they will continue their struggle for a "purely Islamic government" in Afghanistan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Unity Efforts Will Continue

PM201011 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jan 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Algerian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Cancellation of Al-Qadhdhafi's Visit to Tunisia Will Not End the 'Fraternity Treaty'"]

[Text] Responsible Algerian sources have stated that the cancellation of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia, scheduled for the end of last week, has not interrupted the efforts being made to get Libya to join the "fraternity and concord" treaty signed by three states—Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania—in 1983.

The Algerian sources informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during President Chadli Bendjedid's recent visit to Tunisia and Libya, ways of achieving Arab Maghreb unity were discussed with the leaders of both countries.

Official Algerian circles indicated that the sole obstacle in the way of achieving this unity is undoubtedly the dispute over the Western Sahara, and the continued absence of a settlement will cause it to remain a source of tension in relations between some of the sides.

These circles stated that the meetings held between Algerian and Moroccan officials last month led to the formation of joint committees whose task is to focus on clearing the air, despite the conflicting views on the issue of the Western Sahara.

The Algerian circles emphasized that when it was signed, the "fraternity and concord" treaty left the door open for any state wishing to join it by designating one of its basic clauses for that purpose.

The circles denied that Algeria has sought or will seek to prevent Morocco from joining the treaty. The unity of the Arab Maghreb is an integral whole, and its aim is not the formation of an axis in order to isolate a fraternal state.

The circles reported that last month's meeting of the Algerian, Mauritanian, and Tunisian foreign ministers in Algeria had discussed the matter of Libya's joining the treaty, which it welcomed, as it welcomed the joining of any fraternal state.

Moreover, it described the arrival of an Algerian official in Mauritania as a normal matter which comes within the ongoing policy of coordination and consultation between the countries of the Arab Maghreb.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Leaves Baghdad 19 Jan

JN191315 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad today at the end of a visit that lasted several days. 'Arafat was seen off by RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, members of the RCC Liberation Movements Office, and the PLO representative in Baghdad.

Al-Wazir on Possible 'Interim' Government

PM191257 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Jan 88 p 20

[Telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir in Baghdad by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Why does the PLO find it appropriate now to announce its intention of forming a government-in-exile and are there any factors requiring such an announcement?

Al-Wazir: The idea of forming an interim government was raised in certain circumstances when some circles found it essential that a number of Palestinian struggle obligations at the international level should be tackled to firmly enhance PLO representation and stop the attempts being made by some parties to claim their representation right or the attempts to undermine the legitimacy of PLO representation of our Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Have the Palestinian factions under the PLO been consulted, in particular the PFLP and DFLP?

Al-Wazir: Some brothers announced it before consultations with the other parties were completed. It was raised when the situation was urgent. There are other quarters and parties that must consider the issue carefully before they can give their views.

AL-HAWADITH: Some reports from Cairo refer to an Egyptian request to the PLO to complete its consultations before making any decision in this regard.

Al-Wazir: This is what is happening now. We believe the government issue is an urgent one which must be studied in depth. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Was it the new circumstances created by the uprising in the occupied territories which prompted you to consider the formation of a government-in-exile?

Al-Wazir: This is one aspect of it, even though we believe this is not the appropriate time for it.

AL-HAWADITH: But Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told THE WASHINGTON POST that a government would be announced shortly.

Al-Wazir: It has to be studied in depth, especially since we are represented as an organization in 118 states. If we were to announce such a government, then these states might respond positively and recognize it or they might respond negatively, thus causing some problems. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: To what extent would the announcement of a government help secure a more effective Palestinian participation in any formula for a solution to the Palestinian problem?

Al-Wazir: Let us say that if an interim government is a step aimed at giving impetus to our struggle and enhancing our rights in both the international and Arab arenas, then it would undoubtedly be taken. [passage omitted]

Salah Kh. af Hails UK's 'Objective Approach'

PM191341 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Jan 88 pp 20-21

[Telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in Tunis by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Why is such talk of a government-in-exile taking place now?

Khalaf: With regard to a government-in-exile, neither the revolution nor any other organization operating in the liberation field can do anything other than include on its agenda the issue of an interim government or a government-in-exile. But political factors must be available before such a government can be announced so the organization and its people will reap the fruit of victory. In my view, and despite the gigantic uprising and the brave steadfastness of our people in Lebanon's camps, we must be patient in this regard to secure firm ground, bearing in mind that such a government would have a duty to perform in assuming power and handling the people's affairs. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What factors have prompted the PLO to think of this now?

Khalaf: I see nothing that would prompt the announcement or formation of an interim government now, although I do not rule out the idea completely. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: During his visit to the occupied territories, British Minister of State David Mellor informed the Palestinian figures he met with in Gaza of the need to work toward persuading the PLO to accept Resolutions 242 and 338, since that would open the door for the PLO to initiate a dialogue with the United States.

Khalaf: I believe the uprising of our people in the occupied territories and their steadfastness in Lebanon have exceeded all expectations. We are a people seeking the right to self-determination. We, as an organization, accept all UN resolutions relating to a solution to the Palestinian problem. So why focus on Resolutions 242 and 338?

AL-HAWADITH: Talking of the uprising, there has been an uproar over an Islamic tendency role being played in the uprising at the expense of PLO activities inside.

Khalaf: The Islamic tendency exists in the occupied territories, since there are various inclinations among our people. But magnifying the role is intended to give the impression that such a trend operates on instructions from outside and does not fall within the PLO's nationalist approach. Since the representatives of this tendency, which is nationalist, exist within the PNC and the Central Council, this means that the tendency does not operate apart from or replace the nationalist Palestinian movement. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The British stand expressed by Minister Mellor was the focus of attention of both observers and the large-scale media coverage of events in the occupied territories. How does the organization view this matter?

Khalaf: I salute the British stand which has emerged since the uprising began. It has begun to assume an objective approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially as far as the occupied territories are concerned.

Minister Mellor's stand during his visit to occupied Palestine, the stand adopted by the British representative in the Security Council, as well as Margaret Thatcher's stand in support of Mellor and her press statements in this regard—all confirm that the current British stand is much better than previous ones. There is the U.S. stand, although relatively so. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What stage have your contacts with the Syrian leadership reached?

Khalaf: We have recently received a message. For our part we have requested a direct meeting, since the topics contained in the message require direct dialogue. We hope this will take place shortly following a decision by the Syrian leadership.

AL-HAWADITH: And when did you receive the message?

Khalaf: Two weeks ago.

AL-HAWADITH: Regarding Lebanon, what are the latest developments on the level of your relations with the Amal Movement and the implementation of the recent agreement?

Khalaf: We are committed to the agreement concluded and endorsed in Algeria last September. We hope the brothers in Amal will respond to the human tragedies occurring in the camps and lift the blockade imposed on supplies and building materials so that we can implement the agreement step by step. [passage omitted]

PFLP's Habash Meets Deportees in Lebanon

JN191326 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Dr George Habash has become the first leader of a Palestinian faction or group to set foot again in Lebanon for approximately 4 years. Dr Habash, PFLP secretary general, headed for Lebanon this morning and met with the four Palestinian deportees who were expelled from their homeland by the Israeli forces. At this meeting, Dr Habash hailed the Palestinian masses' militant spirit. He referred to the meaning and significance of ceaselessly continuing the uprising for 43 days.

Dr Habash praised the role of the four strugglers and their fellow strugglers who are suffering in the occupation jails and collective detention camps. He added that the PLO and all friendly and fraternal forces and states are continuing their efforts to secure the return of the deportees to the homeland, aided by the UN Security Council resolution which called on Israel to allow the deportees to return and to cancel decisions to deport other Palestinians.

I have learned that Dr Habash will also meet with a number of nationalist Lebanese leaders in Lebanon to discuss ways to support the popular uprising, to expedite implementation of the initiative of Minister Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement, with regard to lifting the siege on the camps, and to immediately begin organizing Palestinian-national Lebanese relations.

Meanwhile, a statement was issued by the PFLP Command in the occupied homeland calling on the masses to broaden the uprising, escalate struggle against the occupation, and adhere to Palestinian rights and an independent Palestinian state.

Al-Quds Radio Airs Call for 'General' Strike

JN191832 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1456 GMT 19 Jan 88

["Call from the command of the mammoth popular uprising in Palestine;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] O masses of our great Palestinian people. O masses of the people of stones and Molotov cocktails. O soldiers of justice who are are participating in our people's valiant uprising.

Blessed be your steel-hard arms, O heroes, blessed be your hands, O workers, blessed be your hands, O peasants, students, merchants, and women, blessed be your hands, O cubs of Palestine, who are tomorrow's generation: a greeting of reverence and admiration to these great people, who recorded the most splendid epics of struggle; a greeting to these people, who fulfilled the call of duty and shook the earth under the Zionists' feet last week; a greeting of pride and glory to the masses of these resisting people; a greeting of reverence and admiration to the dear sacrifices being offered by our generous people and contemporary revolution; a greeting to you, O grandsons of Al-Qassam; a greeting to this hand which is confronting the enemy soldiers in the alleys of the camps, villages, and towns throughout Palestine; a greeting to the wound which triumphs over the knife of Zionist terrorism and emerges lofty in the face of their war machine, tracked vehicles, and their asphyxiating and poisonous bombs. A thousand greetings, all respect, admiration, glory, and immortality to you, O martyrs of our people, martyrs of the uprising, who watered the earth of the beloved homeland with your pure blood while hoisting the banners of freedom and independence.

We repeat one million times: Blessed be your hands, O heroes in Al-Shaykh Ridwan, Kafr Nu'man, Rafah, Jabalyah, Qalqilyah, and all camps, villages, streets, and alleys. We repeat our pride in the people's masses, which chanted in one resounding voice: We redeem you with our souls and blood, O martyr; we redeem you with our souls and blood, O Palestine.

O masses of our great people, along the path of continuing and escalating the uprising and along the path of defeating occupation and realizing the slogans of the uprising, we call on all the national action committees and the popular committees to develop and escalate the successful popular uprising by declaring a general, comprehensive strike from Tuesday, 19 January 1988, until Friday. Let prayers, token funerals, and tumultuous popular demonstrations be renewed on Friday in memory of the martyrs of the uprising. Let the bells of churches ring in all villages and cities throughout Palestine.

O shopowners, who recorded honorable militant stands, who are facing the enemy's daily repression and arbitrary measures, who are firmly defying the closure orders, levers, and heavily-armed soldiers, and who are staging a commercial strike despite all the enemy measures: We greet you and your key role in our people's uprising and daily victories. We appeal to you to abide by the renewed general strike no matter how much the army presence is intensified and regardless of the measures adopted. We also call on you to continue to form and expand the merchants committees in every street and city, every village and camp.

O masses of the Palestinian working class: Yes, the dark-skinned, steel-hard arms have succeeded in bringing the wheel of production in the Zionist factories and

projects to a standstill through their large and effective participation in the general strike. Continue your strike against working in Zionist projects. Our hero workers, we have nothing to lose from our uprising but shackles, oppression, and exploitation.

O masses of the valiant students, O you who have robbed the occupiers of their peace of mind throughout the years: Let us teach the enemy an unforgettable lesson. Let us teach the enemy that the policy of closing educational institutions—universities, institutes, and schools—will only be disastrous for it. The Zionist authorities are shutting down all educational institutions now. Let us send the large masses of our students in villages, camps, and cities to the school of revolution, the school of struggle in the streets, so that they can participate in shaking and scorching the earth under the Zionists' feet. Let us organize our ranks and utilize all the students' energies in the schools of struggle by continuing and escalating the uprising of our valiant people.

O brave sons of our people, O drivers of cars and buses, O owners of car and taxi companies: As you have done in the past, the unified command of the uprising calls on you to bring traffic to a complete halt in all areas on the days of the strike with the exception of Friday.

To the sector of doctors and health services: We call on you to always be ready and to immediately join the medical committees which organize campaigns of medical aid to camps and besieged areas. We invite all doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and laboratory technicians to largely participate in the aid campaigns because deteriorating health conditions and numerous diseases are prevailing in the camps as a result of the siege, starvation, and use of poisonous gases.

To the owners of drug stores, drug factories, and pharmacies: We call on you to organize large-scale campaigns to donate drugs and provide free medicine to the medical and health committees which treat our wounded people.

To the owners of national capital and all financially capable people: We call on you to largely participate by donating goods, products, and money to finance the camps and besieged areas. These donations should be handed to the competent national and popular committees and the supply committees in the various areas.

To the academics and professionals in various specialties: The uprising requires all your efforts. Participate in the national and popular committees and the specialized committees. Participate actively in the uprising whether by extending aid or through writings, songs, and slogans. Also participate in the information campaigns and in organizing marches and sit-in strikes against the occupation policy.

Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs, victory to our people's uprising, and down with the occupation.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio along the path of liberating land and man.

New Palestinian Radio in Lebanon Begins

LD182235 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1714 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, 18 Jan (KUNA)—A new Palestinian radio station began broadcasting today in the Sidon area, south Lebanon. A KUNA correspondent in south Lebanon said the station identified itself as "The Voice of Palestine, Voice of the Palestinian Revolution, Voice of the Palestinian Liberation Organization."

The correspondent also said the station is believed to be broadcasting from an area situated between Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, southeast of the coastal city of Sidon, broadcasting on the medium-wave. Its main newscasts included detailed news on the uprising, with full accounts of the confrontations occurring between the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation forces. It also included news of the movements of Palestinian leaders outside the occupied territories, along with patriotic songs and Palestinian folk songs.

The station broadcasts daily from 0800 until 1400, corresponding to "0600 until 1200 GMT."

Chad

Libyan Planes Continue To Violate Airspace

AB191932 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Libyan warplanes violated Chadian airspace yesterday and today. The planes flew over Bardai yesterday at 2140 [2045 GMT] and today at 0700, while the towns of Zoumri and Yebbi Bou were overflown today, at 0630 and (?0700) respectively.

Lake Chad Commission Meets, Adopts Budget

AB171101 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 17 Jan 88

["Final communique" issued at the end of the 35th session of the Lake Chad Basin Comission [CBLT] in Ndjamena on 16 January—read by Moustapha Sam, the commission's executive secretary]

[Text] During the session, the members of the commission heard reports presented by the executive secretary and the finance comptroller. They also heard a report on the experts' preparatory meeting. On the basis of these reports, the commission examined and adopted the 1988 budget. The operating budget has been set at 455,525,724 CFA francs and the capital budget at 500 million CFA francs. The participants in the session also expressed satisfaction with the sound management of 1986 [date as heard] and with the efforts being made by the executive secretariat to implement the various decisions made during the sixth summit, especially the decisions on border demarcation and the convening of a meeting of ministers in charge of environment designed to draft regulations for the safeguarding of Lake Chad.

The commissioners promised to make every effort to get their respective countries to pay their contributions on a regular basis to enable the executive secretariat to implement the development programs. They also stressed the need to reassess the objectives of the CBLT and promised to study the reorganization of the secretariat.

After the deliberations, the commission members charged the first commissioner of the Republic of Chad, his excellency Colonel Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, who is the Chadian minister of agriculture, to convey their wholehearted gratitude to his excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, head of state, and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, as well as to the Chadian Government and people, for their warm reception, for the truly African hospitality accorded all participants, and for the facilities made available to them to ensure the success of the session.

The next session will be held in the Republic of Cameroon. The date and venue will be announced later.

Issued in Ndjamena on 16 January 1988 in French and English with both texts being equally authentic.

Egypt

Tunisia Plans To Restore Ties 'Next Week'

NC191731 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—MENA has learned that a decision to restore full diplomatic relations between Egypt and Tunisia will be announced some time next week.

Arab diplomatic sources have told MENA that the recent Tunisian-Egyptian consultations will give a strong impetus to bilateral relations, especially since the latest exchanges have demonstrated that Egyptian and Tunisian views on numerous Arab and international issues are identical.

It is noteworthy in this respect that Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche made a stopover at Cairo Airport while on his way to begin a tour of the Gulf states. He held talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Taieb Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, today concluded a 2-day visit to Cairo during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also held discussions with senior Egyptian officials.

Protest Lodged Over U.S. Diplomats' Activity

PM191445 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Jan 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Containment of a Crisis Between Cairo and Washington."]

[Text] A new crisis between Egypt and the United States was contained the week before last, ending in an official protest delivered by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to the U.S. ambassador to Cairo requesting an official and immediate U.S. response.

In Cairo the Egyptian authorities seized two U.S. Embassy employees who enjoy diplomatic immunity in Alexandria following a chemical gas leakage incident from one of the chemical weapons dumps belonging to the armed forces in the Al-Wardiyan area of Alexandria. They were making what the official investigation circles described as "an attempt to take samples from the air in order to analyse the escaped gas."

The investigation authorities, in a special file sent to higher sources, have confirmed that this action is considered an attempt to ascertain whether the armed forces are producing types of chemical weapons banned internationally. The security authorities obtained the samples and the instruments employed, released the two U.S. diplomats, and summoned the ambassador the following

day to the Foreign Ministry where he received the protest. Cairo is expected to request the removal of the two men as persona non grata.

'Ayn Shams University Demonstration Detailed

PM191507 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Jan 88 p 3

['Imad Mahjub report: "'Ayn Shams Demomstrations in Support of Palestinian Uprising: 320 Male and Female Students Injured, 84 Arrested and 5 Detained Under the Emergency Law."']

[Excerpts] 'Ayn Shams University students declared a general boycott of classes the day before yesterday (Sunday) starting at the Law Faculty and extending to the rest of the faculties until their detained colleagues are released. Moreover, they staged a large demonstration that marched through the university in protest of the interior minister's decision to detain a number of students.

Immediately following last Tuesday's demonstrations, the interior minister issued a detention order on Ahmad Muhammad Najib, Students Union member and Al-Nadim Society External Relations Committee secretary, and Al-Nadim Society Deputy Secretary Nahid Muhammad Hashim, who are both Labor Party members; Al-Nadim Society member Salah Yasin; and Wa'il Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman. Furthermore, the security forces carried out brutal attacks on the houses of students 'Ala 'Amir, Muhammad 'Uthman, Yasir Fathi, and Jamal Fattuh.

The police accused them of assembling, inciting, and leading the student demonstrations that moved out into Al-'Abbasiyyah Square, the last of which was Tuesday's demonstration where students announced their support for the Palestinian uprising and their condemnation of the Zionist ambassador's presence in Egypt. Moreover, they shouted slogans against the interior minister when dozens of tear gas bombs rained down on their heads (inside the university campus). Also, the students took up the issue of the insane increase in prices and the issue of subsidies.

A catastrophe nearly occurred when a number of officers started to fire rounds of bullets in the air, followed by an attack by karate units and armed security forces with shields, electric batons, and iron bars, which rained down on the students' heads and led to the injury of 320 students who were taken to 'Ayn Shams specialist hospital, in addition to the hundreds of cases given first aid inside the university.

Moreover, on Tuesday, the security forces arrested 74 male students and 12 female students—most occurring inside the university—who were subjected to abusive questioning, beating, and kicks in the groin—especially Arts Faculty student 'Atif, who was released by the police so the district attorney would not refer him for legitimate medical treatment. [passage omitted]

Last Saturday morning the students held an exhibition of photographs and posters carrying slogans condemning of the Interior Ministry's brutality in confronting the student processions. Afterward the students went out on a procession throughout the university and its faculties, in which more than 1,200 participated.

They surrounded Al-Za'faran Palace (the university administrative building) and held a conference in which, to rapturous applause, they read out their demands—the release of the detainees, the dismissal of the interior minister, the abrogation of the emergency law, the expulsion of the Zionist ambassador, and a halt to all forms of normalization with the enemy. [passage omitted]

'Israeli Elements' Behind Alexandria Blast

PM191621 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Israeli Elements Behind Attempt To Blow Up U.S. Consulate in Alexandria"]

[Text] About 200 youths, most of them students at Alexandria University who belong to the Islamic Tendency, were arrested indiscriminately last Saturday following the explosion that occurred near the State Security Investigations building and the U.S. Consulate. They were taken to the Turah prison and referred to the central state security authorities in Cairo. Initial trends in the investigation suggest that the culprits were most probably hostile Israeli elements who, in disguise, arrived in Alexandria with a group of other Israelis on the pretext of attending the Abu Hasirah [Jewish figure of Egyptian origin] birthday celebration.

The aim of the incident and the subsequent arbitrary arrests and torture was to widen the gap between the regime and the Islamic Tendency. The security authorities have not yet submitted their report on the investigation into the incident and the forensic laboratory reports have not reached the attorney general's office.

The explosion occurred last Friday evening on 'Abd al-Hamid Mursi Street in the Al-Shallalat quarter. The street is sealed off as a security precaution for the U.S. Consulate, which is situated opposite the State Security Investigations building. The explosion shattered window panes in neighboring buildings. The attorney general's department, under the supervision of the public attorney for the East Alexandria area, heard statements by the inhabitants of these buildings.

Al-Baz Comments on Relations With Israel, PLO

TA191830 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
18 Jan 88 p 7

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's office, by Amira Hasan—in Cairo, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Hasan] How can Egypt exploit the events in the occupied territories to boost the peace process?

[Al-Baz] We have stated and reiterate that continuation of the current situation is impossible. The status quo, based on Israeli occupation of Arab land, the attempt to impose Israeli hegemony over this land by force against the will of its inhabitants, the suppression of the rights of these inhabitants, and violation of their right to self-determination, is all false and invalid. This status quo cannot be maintained regardless of how much force Israel uses.

Israeli occupation of Palestinian land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is against peace, in its general terms, as well as against peace between Israel and Egypt. The peace that we launched between Israel and Egypt is part of a comprehensive peace process and is not a separate or partial peace. Therefore, every Israeli must realize if he wants to preserve the peace between Egypt and Israel, he should try to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. The recent events have proved the truth of the Egyptian position on the importance of peace talks between the Palestinian people and Israel.

Some individuals have been saying that the peace process is difficult, that the necessary conditions are not yet ripe for peace talks due to inter-Arab relations and the acute situation in Israel and that the international situation is not working in favor of a reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians. This uprising, however, has proved the claims are invalid. It has proved that the Palestinian problem cannot be put on the back burner, whether in contacts between the two superpowers or in the minds of the people of the region.

On the other hand, the uprising has proved that continuation of the status quo is impossible and breeds violence. We watched with deep regret the violent approach Israel used in this uprising. It is not a matter of violation and aggression but the belief that Israel has the right to confront a demonstration by firing bullets even on children, minors, women, and the elderly. This action is enough to lead to a break in the peace process and to place new obstacles before it.

Dealing with the Palestinian people from the premise of repression and on the basis of subjugating them by force is an anti-peace tendency. Anyone who moves within the orbit of this policy lends his voice against peace and is saying he wants to establish relations between Israel and the Arabs on the basis of violence. Violence breeds violence and for every action there is a reaction. This means Israel will become insecure, because irrespective of how much the Israelis believe they can maintain security for themselves by using force, this will constitute a weak point for Israel in the future.

The Israelis should have a long-term perspective of the demographic situation in what was Palestine—the land of Israel—the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Can Israel maintain its rule and domination over the occupied Arab lands and impose annexation, whether legally or by practice, if it persists in swallowing Arab Palestinian land? This means that in the near future, during the next 25 years—and this is a short period in the life of nations—Israel will have to choose between two alternatives. It must either give up democracy completely and treat the Arabs in the Arab lands as individuals with no rights or give up the Zionist dream and become a non-Jewish state, a multinational state, a binational state, or a Jewish-Arab state.

The contradictions stemming from this are great and could bring about the gravest consequences both to individuals and to society. Those who undertake to bear the responsibility in Israel for looking to the future should have vision. The situation cannot possibly continue as it is. This is unacceptable on Palestinian, Egyptian, and international levels.

[Hasan] Can it be said Israeli-Egyptian relations today are at a crossroad?

[Al-Baz] Undoubtedly Israel's attitude toward our brothers in the occupied land will reflect on the nature of Israeli-Egyptian relations. It is not right for anyone to think Egyptian-Israeli relations are separate from Israel's policy toward other Arabs, particularly the Palestinian people. As I have said, no separate agreement between Egypt and Israel was reached, but rather we launched a comprehensive peace process. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty was the first step in this process, on the premise that other steps would follow.

If we glance at the evolution of Egyptian-Israeli relations in their entirety since the signing of the peace agreement, I honestly believe that this event constitutes a positive development beneficial to all other parties. The important point in this connection, for us in Egypt as well as for the entire Arab world, is that the rising force in the whole of Israel is leaning toward peace. If this assumption is sound, we must also take into consideration the growing role and size of the peace movement in Israel. I think the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel has contributed to accelerating, strengthening, and boosting this current.

We consider the peace movement in Israel, in all its branches, to be a basic movement. The more its role grows the more the tendency for peace deepens. This movement serves Arab goals just as it serves Israeli goals. It does not constitute a danger to anyone, but represents

a way for a new future. Therefore, our assessment of the Egyptian-Israeli relationship is that it has been used and can be used to a larger degree in the future to strengthen the tendency toward peace, to protect Arab and Palestinian interests, and support the aim for which we strive, namely, the protection of peace. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] What is your current assessment of Egypt's relations with the PLO?

[Al-Baz] Our relations, as always and at present are very good because there exists a unity of interests between the Egyptian and Palestinian people. Our objectives for peace, for ending the occupation of the land, and for establishing a sound basis for peace are the same. Peace must be based on justice and respect for rights, not on occupation. The Palestinian people have been our partners throughout history. There has always been a special relationship between the Egyptian and Palestinian people. We are neighbors and we have always been so. The interests are the same and the vision is the same as well.

Our relationship with the PLO is sound and very healthy. For a while it was subjected to some jolts. These jolts were the result of foreign intervention or the desire of some Palestinian leaders to adopt specific positions for tactical, not strategic, reasons. We overcame these positions quickly though, because the unity of our goal is stronger than all these differences.

[Hasan] What is your opinion of Israel's condemnation of the reopening of the PLO offices in Cairo?

[Al-Baz] We did not pay attention to this condemnation because it is not Israel's right to interfere in the formulation of relations between Egypt, the Palestinian people, and their representative. Our policy has been and will continue to be that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. Israel has no right to interfere in this or to comment on it. Egypt will not allow Israel, or others, to interfere in this.

[Hasan] Is Egypt today calling for more concessions from the PLO, such as recognition of 242 and 338?

[Al-Baz] The question is not one of calling for concessions because we are not the party that gains these concessions. All that we say is aimed at accelerating the peace process. It is not right to take things calmly and to let events move on the basis that a solution or a settlement will come on a golden platter. This will not happen. If we let things move along by themselves, we will become spectators. An effective force is one that assesses the situation and defines its shape.

To be effective, we should take the initiative and not let others move. Sometimes objective circumstances arise that help in the evolution toward peace. If we fail to seize these opportunities, the peace process will suffer a setback leading to an increase of extremist incidents within Israel. These incidents have a negative aspect and a tendency to destroy. We say all this to the parties.

We have certain requests from Israel as well, not only from the PLO. Israel should adopt a clear stance on peace and abandon its present policy, because this will only result in grave consequences for Israel and have bad repercussions. Our duty is also to act. While we do not want to impose concessions on this or that party, we have one goal, and that is that we all move toward peace, because a lack of movement means we let others move.

Those who move amid such a situation are the anti-peace currents, whether inside Israel or in some Arab circles. If the pro-peace tendency is isolated and the anti-peace tendency advances, this will guarantee that another wave of violence will occur in the region. This wave will have dangerous dimensions that will retard the peace process scores of years.

[Hasan] Many years have passed since the Camp David Accords and so far the treaty's clauses have not been implemented. My question is: Where is autonomy, where are the elections in the occupied territories?

[Al-Baz] The lack of success of the autonomy talks within the framework of Camp David was due to Israeli intransigence. Israel was intransigent in its interpretation of the Camp David Accords relating to the powers and authority of Palestinian self-government. Israel went ahead in setting up new settlements and expanding existing ones. Moreover, instead of adopting some confidence-building measures in the occupied land and creating a suitable climate for the establishment of peace, Israel pursued a policy of steel and fire, an iron-fist policy.

All this thwarted the establishment of Palestinian rule in the occupied territories. One should look upon autonomy as a phase, not as a solution, a phase that precedes a settlement and negotiations on self-determination. However, Israeli intransigence in this respect does not signify abandonment of the peace process. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee Member Arrives 19 Jan

NC181655 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening. He brings with him a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Upon arrival, Abu Mazin stated that the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to continue the discussions he began with Egyptian officials during his previous visit to Cairo.

He said he is particularly concerned with continuing the talks in light of current events in the occupied territories and the two UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to these events.

He added: We are anxious to continue consultations with our Egyptian brothers. Referring to the escalating Palestinian uprising, he declared: It is our duty to address ourselves to the results of this uprising and to seek to influence the development of positions, both the position of the United States and that of the UN Security Council.

Abu Mazin was met at the airport by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the PLO representative in Egypt.

Meets 'Abd Al-Majid, Al-Baz

NC191504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the Preident's Office for Political Affairs, held an extended session of talks today with the members of the PLO delegation which is visiting Cairo.

The delegation includes Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, and 'Abdallah Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, and Sa'id Kamal, PNC member. Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the PLO representative in Cairo, was also present at the talks.

'Abdallah Hurani stated that during the meeting the conferees reviewed the latest developments on the Palestinian scene in the wake of the recent full-scale uprising which has emphasized the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation.

He said efforts must be made to exploit the uprising politically and to seek the international community's help in restoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own independent state. He added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid and Dr al-Baz have shown full understanding of the uprising's significance. He asserted that Egypt plays a major role in the Arab and international arenas and that the members of the Palestinian delegation are certain that President Mubarak will promote the Palestinian people's cause during his coming tour of Europe and the United States.

'Abdallah Hurani added that the Arab world must support the Palestinian uprising politically and materially. On the political level, he said, the Arabs must adopt a unified stand urging the israeli occupation be terminated and that the Palestinians be enabled to attain their legitimate rights. He further noted that the Arabs must extend material aid by providing food and medicine so the Palestinians may carry on with their uprising.

Abu Mazin and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo yesterday to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the latest developments in the Palestinian revolt, the Palestinian issue, and relations with Egypt.

Support Withheld for PLO Government-in-Exile

PM200959 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Jan 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Does Not Back Government-in-Exile"]

[Text] Egypt has refrained from supporting the PLO's intention to form a government-in-exile, which was raised during Egyptian-Palestinian talks held in complete secrecy during a visit by a Palestinian official to Cairo a few days ago. Cairo has confirmed that the objective conditions for such a decision are not yet ripe and that the PLO ought to prepare for that immediately after the objective conditions are in place.

Some Palestinian circles have explained the Egyptian rejection as being due to Cairo's wish to prepare the ground for the announcement of the formation of a government-in-exile from Cairo.

Statements have emanated from Palestinian officials over the past few weeks indicating that the PLO is studying the matter and they predicted that the announcement of the formation of a government-in-exile will be made shortly.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Basic People's Congress

LD191332 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2231 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a session of the Basic People's Congress in Hay al-Andalus in Tripoli on 18 January—videorecorded]

[Text] I want to intervene in this session with some observations. The first thing I have deduced from the members of the congress who have spoken is that there appears to be information available in the people's congresses that seems to be important, such as the information offered by the engineer. Also heard at the people's congresses are important new ideas on the proceedings of such congresses, on the organization of the meetings, and, through the discussion of the memos submitted to the congresses, some new conclusions. All of this leads to the development of the jamahiri system, which stresses popular authority. At every meeting and at every session every year we advance and learn more. This is the objective, until future people's congresses no longer need an instigator, a leader, or a revolutionary committee.

Is this a drafting committee? [Unidentified person responds: The congress is a drafting congress] When they elect a secretariat to the congress, they should select those who have the ability to administer the congress. Therefore, the drafting committee should be selected from among those who have the ability to formulate ideas and thoughts and come to a conclusion. It is the quality of the talk, not the quantity. Someone might speak for 1/2 hour when 2 minutes would suffice.

I want to tell you again that the decisive phase and the result of these debates will be epitomized at the municipal congresses, after the basic congresses, and then at the General People's Congress. All that you have said will be reflected at the municipal congresses, where the people's committees will select and discard. The rest will be reflected at the General People's Congress and by the general people's committee, and will be accountable before the General People's Congress, according to what you said at the municipal congress. So everyone must be aware of what he is saying. One should not speak idly. Everything that is said should be reflected in the draft when the secretary of the congress carries it to the municipal congress to present your ideas. The drafting committee at all congresses should be attentive and select the most important things said.

What we are drawing attention to [passage indistinct] is when new information, new ideas, new conclusions, serious information do appear in the congress, they must be disseminated among all the congresses through the secretariat of the municipal congress to which that basic congress belongs, and in turn inform the secretariat of the General People's Congress. It in turn will inform the secretariat of the General People's Congress tonight, and tomorrow this will be changed; that is to say, this memorandum or this new issue will be attached to the memorandum.

He who does not come up with the correct information should be held accountable for his actions. This issue deserves questioning. Will the conferences, when debating this, refer it to the municipal conference and then to the General People's Congress so that we can hear the result? Otherwise, the conferences may say: Let us set up a popular court to try those who ask for the pipes to be maintained before they are used. What is the reason for that? Why are these pipes worn and torn before they were even put to use? Should all this stay on the record until all the information is collected against this establishment, because the latter is responsible to the General People's Congress or because this establishment is part of a general people's committee which is responsible to the General People's Congress? When someone comes up with a new idea—such as the doctor who spoke about foreign currency—yes, this is a new idea, we should ask him to submit a memorandum containing his thoughts; that is to say, how this issue should be dealt with. He said that centralization should be abolished. The conference should have asked him to clarify this view or to include this clarification in the memorandum. We would then debate that.

At the same time, the memorandum should have been circulated—I mean the conference should have said that there is a view saying effectively that there is centralization, that the latter is not beneficial, and that it should be abolished. We also have the municipalities; there is a proposal to abolish the municipalities. What shall we replace them with? How can we establish the jamahiriyahs which the doctor is talking about? Why can we not have the municipalities instead of the jamahiriyahs he referred to, and so on and so forth? We examine the idea and see whether it receives the attention of the conferences and whether it can be regarded as worthy of debate. Otherwise, it will be thrown out at any level.

Something positive has been realized when an engineer, or a lecturer, a doctor, a technicia , or an administrator start to attend the sessions of a co ference as a member when the debate becomes beneficial. More facts will emerge; we will learn from them because they have experience and education—I mean they have experience from their practices in such spheres. We will benefit from them. The exchange of words in the debate will be responsible. Some of them already are responsible before the popular conferences because they are in charge of certain aspects, such as industry, agriculture, education, etc. Their words will be responsible words and held in high regard, unlike the words spoken by those who are not responsible—they speak irresponsible words.

Someone in Tobruk once said: Industry is a failure; he said nothing more. This is not enough. When we say something, we should provide evidence. But when an engineer working on the gas project came to the meeting and spoke, he talked to us about specific things. He said that the pipes were not used and that they suffered wear and tear; he told us why. Then we were able to say that those responsible for the pipes' wear and tear should be made accountable. He said that such and such a company was handed on a silver or golden platter money, interests, and priviliges, etc. He asked: Who was responsible for that and why? This is good. Previously such things were done by some administrations but nobody made them accountable for their deeds. These administrations were run by ministers and nobody made the ministers accountable for their deeds, or they were run by the government and nobody made the government accountable for their deeds. The people's interests were sacrificed by some who did not have a conscience and the poor people were continuously losing. This is how the people used to lose. Now this cannot happen, as anyone can come to a basic people's congress and say what he wants to say. Such a conference can try and make any party accountable for its deeds. This is the first observation.

The other observation concerning the issue submitted for your attention is about the problems and obstacles which accompanied production operations at cement factories. We will recap what this says: Report on industrial projects. It is my opinion that the congress should focus on these obstructive problems which accompanied

the production operation at cement factories. After all, the report says at the beginning on figures [words indistinct], it says that there was a delay in opening credits which (?led) to a shortage of operational requirements, spare parts, and equipment for operating the factories' quarries.

Alright, this is one point; there was a delay in opening credits. Congresses will discuss this point. Why are factories' or companies' credits delayed? You will find this point in many items; even in suits. Why did winter clothes come in the summer and summer clothes in the winter? The owner of the importing company will reply by saying it was a result of delay in the opening of credits—on the basis of last year, the year before, and this year. Indeed, we find that winter clothes come in the summer. We go to them and ask them what is this you have brought to us? Are they teasing us? What is this joke? Where were they? Where did they go? Why do winter clothes come in the summer? Why did you not bring them in the winter? These must be studied on their merit. Sometimes he may be unjustly treated; he may come and say that the credits have been delayed. What is the reason for the delay in the opening of credits? This issue has to be looked into.

We then go on to ask questions. We are meant to set up people's committees at all congresses. Where is the member of the General People's Committee for Industry? [Unidentified person responds: He is not here due to personal circumstances. He was present yesterday] He should be present to answer our questions; but there is still a query. Who is responsible for delays in the opening of credits and why? There may be convincing reasons. As members of congresses, there may be a reason which will convince us that credits are bound to be delayed and, consequently, the cement industry and importation will face difficulties.

For unforeseeable reasons we receive summer clothes in the winter. Such reasons may not be so unforeseeable! It may be due to someone not performing his duty. We bring him to task and make him accountable. The other point which refers to obstacles concerns the shortage of technical manpower used in production and subsequently maintainance work is not carried out on a regular basis. That is to say, if factories suffer from delays or their production stumbles, then this is because there is a shortage of technical manpower. Alright. The company which is responsible or the People's Committee for Industry should be questioned. We should say to them: Do you train Libyans? Have you provided them with training schedules? Have you employed foreign technical manpower from abroad and if not, why not? If you have not imported foreign technical manpower from abroad, why not, and what prevented you from doing so? Have you no money? If you have no money say so. We will then discuss the matter. If they have no money, it is possible to transfer money from another part as this is important.

We can compare two aspects and see which is more important and then transfer money to the one which is more important and bear the deficit. We say that production shall be reduced and that we accept this as we are convinced that production of factories can fall short because we have no Libyans trained to do the job. We say that we are still training Libyans and that foreign technical manpower is expensive; therefore, we have delayed the process by importing some foreign technical manpower and not all. Or we can equally say that those people responsible for running the factories are not doing their job efficiently and thus have caused such delays.

All these points have been mentioned. Those who mentioned them may be the very people who are responsible. It makes no difference who is responsible for such delays. The delays may be caused by force majeure, for which we are all responsible. We will then accept them as such. There is the problem of transportation and distribution; these cause bottlenecks for production and marketing. Let us discuss the transportation system. How can you distribute something which you manufacture throughout the country? Who will transport the goods? Private vehicles? Public vehicles? It is a problem and it is inevitable that we should have a transportation system. There are 35,000 private vehicles used for transportation in the country. Therefore, how come we have bottlenecks? This is a problem and it should be solved; this problem of transportation should be solved. It can be solved. Why can it not be solved? They say that there are no spare parts for the vehicles, as you have not imported them. Why have you not imported spare parts? Who is responsible for that? The instability of the administrative machineries in these factories. When there are delays in factories and these matters are referred to people's committees, the latter should be given an opportunity—the longest period possible and as much as possible—unless it has been proved to be useless.

Then there is the question of a shortage of financial liquidity and its role in the nonfulfillment of development programs. We should ask: Where has the budget for this factory come from? How come it is short? Some people may say: There is money but the Central Bank has banned its transfer abroad. As one brother said: Where is the budget for this factory? This is an independent company and it has vast production and sales. Where is its revenue? If we are talking about something from the general budget, then why does the General Treasury refuse to provide it with such liquidity? We can ask the General People's Committee for the Treasury or the bank: Why have you not provided this liquidity? We will hear their answer and after that they will either stand convicted or we will be convinced of the reason.

There is the problem of a water shortage, especially in Suq al-Khamis and Madah factories. Why were there assessments of the availability of water in Suq al-Khamis and Madah: whether there was water or not for the factory? Why have the factory in Madah if there is no

water? Why have it in Suq al-Khamis if there is no water? Why not build a dam in these regions? There is rainfall in Suq al-Khamis and Madah. You can collect this water [words indistinct].

We have a general problem with electricity. This may be outside our [word indistinct], because we need one or two large steam powered generating stations which will cost hundreds of millions [currency not specified]. Maybe we delayed their implementation because we are not able to do so at this stage. This is due to bottlenecks. When it is like this, we have to be convinced that this is an acceptable matter subject to [word indistinct] bottlenecks in this factory or others. Why? Because, to avoid bottlenecks in electricity we need a generating station with a specific capacity. We need 4 or 5 years to build it and we need so many millions—it is not available and we need time.

We have to bear this; it will be known. When we say known, we are not saying that the electricity sector [words indistinct] has come from God or somewhere else. We create electricity. Electricity does not come from God. Perhaps God has guided us to create electricity, but it comes from us. We started off using candles and have reached the stage of building stations that generate electricity for us. We can say that rain, wind, heat, and cold come from God and we cannot change them. But electricity we can pursue. Why has it been cut?

Concerning the availability of private transportation; this is a trivial thing. Workers, engineers, and others have no private means of transportation. Give them buses and let them look after themselves. This is not a problem, and it should not even be submitted to people's congresses. What are you doing [words indistinct]? The difficulty of obtaining explosives is even more trivial than the first. What does it matter who handles the explosives? Whether they should be in the hands of the Armed Forces, engineers, or others [words indistinct]. These are the [word indistinct] we follow. That is it, we will dismiss it [words indistinct] and we will not discuss it. They will have to manage private transportation and explosives themselves [words indistinct] explosives for security material and how to bring in material to blow up a quarry?

There is a shortage of paper bags [words indistinct]. Where is this [word indistinct] to tell us the reason for the shortage of these bags; whether they were not manufactured at home, not imported from abroad, whether or not we have money or do not have money. [Word indistinct] the congresses about what you have done. Generally, these are to be discussed. You discuss the items that are before us and express your opinions about them. What are your opinions regarding them; the opinions of the congresses?

Good, this is from A to [sentence incomplete as heard]. This also includes nine items. This one reveals problems such as those at the sand processing plants. When there is a shortage of cement, it is not distributed, output is insufficient, and we have not exported the quantities agreed, we ask why. [Words indistinct] obstacles and problems from money to manpower, transportation, and electricity. I want to point out the item we must discuss so that our discussion is poignant when debating these items—without saying general things about these factories.

The last point in these observations is not on this blackboard because I do not know whether you discussed it before I came—strategic industries. However, the thing I want to draw attention to and which may still be under discussion in a number of conferences is the question of imported consumer commodities.

The budget allocated for importing consumer goods, like the one we had last year and the year before, is the money we earmark for importing goods from abroad. In fact this is the problem. We in this country do not complain at all about Israel's treatment of the Palestinians or the delay in realizing Arab unity, or that we have not succeeded in exploiting the sea or in manufacturing the laser or making the atomic bomb—I do not believe we complained last year, the year before, or this year about these issues, or about the aggression agaist us in Aozou, or about why there is ambition in the Gulf of Sidra, which is inside our borders. As a matter of fact, there were no complaints. Opinion polls and coexistence have proved that no one complained about these issues. The complaints we made concern the markets and these imported goods, so much so that the Americans concentrate their anti-Libyan propaganda on this issue; Arab reaction does likewise. Those who gloat over this do so too. Those who treat us as simpletons, confuse our thoughts, brainwash us, plunder our revolution, and steal the people's authority do this. They all concentrate on this point.

They see you standing in a queue and they photograph you; they publish these photographs. They say that there is a shortage of canned food. You yourselves complain about this. You say: Where are the clothes? Sometimes you say these clothes are good and on other occasions you say that these clothes are useless. You ask: Where is the underwear? You complain about the underwear. You complain about children's shoes. You ask: Where are they? You are told: They have not arrived yet. When clothes arrive we say we do not want these because they are of bad quality. Sometimes we say that the clothes have arrived but not during the correct season. These constitute most of the complaints.

The things which people who are alert can complain about are serious problems. We do not complain about a shortage of money and we do not suffer from a high cost of living, which other nations suffer from. We have money and goods are cheap. But the complaint is: Why have you not imported them? Or, why have you imported poor quality? All our talks concentrate on this. The enemy, meantime, probes our internal front, not by

satellites or aircraft, but through listening to reports which he discusses, or through reading about you. He disguises himself in so many ways. You may imagine him to be an American smoking a pipe; and you may say that he is an American and therefore I shall not reveal secrets before him. No. A Muslim Arab or non-Arab, or a friend, a brother, or a foreign journalist, may come to Libya and send his reports on you via radio which you may hear later by radio; he may recruit a person living in your street or a cousin of yours working in a committee or in a factory or in a shop—this is how agents of U.S. intelligence, Zionist intelligence, and British intelligence operate. They know that these goods are available and they know that Libya is a paradise. But they hear the complaints. They delay this or that; they may sabotage this or that; they may maintain silence over this or that; they may present a false image.

All these things can happen. Do not answer any unnecessary questions; do not talk about certain issues. This is because some of you may answer without even being asked, and when asked you may answer in such a way that it may be harmful. Do not answer more than the question you are asked. Why voluntarily give additional information? Do not answer without questions. You may say: We train at such and such a place because the weapon is new. How nice! Why do you give such information? The same thing applies to the home front. You should not give away information.

I think the issue of the budget is important. When it was decided during the past 2 years, in a revolutionary manner, at least to save money out of this budget which is earmarked for importing consumer goods—I mean by decreasing the import of consumer goods in order to save money for building factories, buying weapons, running education, and providing medicine—complaints began. We forgot what we said—that we would save money in order to buy this or that or to make this or that. We forgot that. For a whole year we said: Why are we short of this or that? Why is this cheap? It is cheap because it is useless. This is what we used to say. We used to say: It is cheap; therefore, bring us something better. We can import gold, silk, and everything else. But this means that we will exhaust our money. We will not be able to save. If we want to save, then we have to buy little of this and little of that. We forgot all that.

Since we forgot that, the enemy has exploited us and rejoiced, saying to himself: There is no need to fight the Libyans militarily; let us continue fighting them economically. But in reality they could not fight us economically and they cannot succeed. In such a country no economic blockade can succeed. What does an economic blockade on Libya mean? In any case, it does not exist.

First of all, politically, we are not boycotted. The largest diplomatic representation in the world exists in Libya, with nearly 100 embassies or representatives of foreign states; we have between 90-100 embassies in one city. So where is the political blockade? There is no such a thing. Presidents from throughout the world come to us and we go to them. Why do we not visit Europe, naturally Western Europe, and why don't they visit us? It is on U.S. orders. This is an honor for us. Al-Qadhdahfi is forbidden to visit West Europe. Let us say I ask to visit Germany—impossible. The United States says that Al-Qadhdahfi cannot visit Germany. If I want to visit France, it is impossible. I want to visit Canada; they say no. I want to visit Sweden; they say you cannot. Austria, which extended an invitation to me and which I visited, was the object of harsh criticisms and the former prime minister was deposed; they conspired against him and they ousted him. Then they turned to another who became president of the republic and they said that he was with the Nazis. Why? Because this country welcomed me twice.

But as for the rest of the world, I can visit the whole of Latin America, the whole of East Europe, Asia, and Africa. Any state will welcome me. Their presidents, their representatives, their ministers, and their delegations visit us frequently. On the contrary, Libya is well-known in the world and it has wide-ranging relations with the whole world. Yet they talk about isolating Libya politically. This is a laughing matter when someone knows the truth.

As for the economic blockade which they talk about, let us say that if they impose an economic blockade on Japan, it is possible that it will have an effect on it; or if they impose it on Germany, it might affect it as it might affect Britain. But as far as Libya is concerned, what kind of economic blockade are they talking about? First of all, we can buy equipment from anywhere in the world, including Western states which the United States has pressured to blockade us. These states run after us asking us to buy goods.

The United States has withdrawn its oil companies; good riddance. The losers are the companies and they are determined to elect a new U.S. President who will be friendly with the oil companies so that they can return to Libya, because they are the losers. They tell us: Please, if we elect a friend of ours, let us return to work in your country and work with you. They say: Please, if we elect someone else after this insignifcant man, if we bring a president who is on the side of the oil companies, please reinstate the U.S. oil companies. They also say: We will return and we will cooperate with you, but wait until this Zionist is finished.

The United States tells them not to sell arms to Libya; that is true. The important arms are possibly the only thing that can be blockaded by West Europe. Companies want to sell arms but their governments will not allow it. France and even Italy are confiscating Libyan arms. We bought them from them and we have them repaired in those countries. And they confiscated them. They say: We cannot give them to you while you are fighting our friends. The United States has told us that Libya's military capacity must be reduced. We do not allow that.

You will find these facts in the report of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison so that you may understand how many planes, how many vessels, and how many guns there are in Italy and France which we have brought from them and returned for repairs and they held on to them. Engines that needed maintenance were confiscated by them, naturally, on U.S. orders.

But we were buying arms which were available in the socialist camp. These are similar to those available in the Western camp, if not better. You can buy according to your finances. You can buy from China, Argentina, Brazil, and from the whole world. You can buy; there is no problem. But when they confiscated our arms it was not because there was a blockade and that the blockade may continue and continue, and the war may continue and continue. We know that this was not the case. We were not affected at all by such measures because we are not an industrial state of the first grade, such as those states which I have mentioned. If we had vast exports, we would have been affected because we would not have been able to find markets. If we had vast imports which included raw materials, they would have blockaded us and we would have found it difficult to import such materials. Not at all.

The things we need are very simple. We have no exports. We export oil and they need oil. They say: We no longer buy anything from Libya. But they buy oil. You do not export anything else. Do you export anything else? No. What can they blockade then? What ban can they impose? But the point they saw and considered to be a point of weakness in you is your need, regrettably, for these trivial things—these simple things. If there is a shortage in some commodities, we import them from abroad. They have no way of stabbing you except with these things. They say that they should continue to fight Libya economically so that the Libyan people and the revolution will fall and that all this will make the Libyan people—like the Egyptian people—kneel before us; then we will enter Libya to the sound of music and without resistance. This is the point which you should be aware of. All Libyan men and women should be aware of this point. We should not sell our dignity, our stance, and our future, which can be strong and successful, and which can unite the Arab nation, liberate Palestine, and create economic opportunities. We should not compromise all this for the sake of shoes, underwear, food, and canned food. Therefore, I want the congresses to concentrate on this; they should be aware of which commodities need to be imported.

Here I see you have written food. You import food valued at more than 250 million dinars. You say this much should be imported in 1988; it is stated here. This includes various supplies, meat, dairy products, and other things. Who pays for this? I spoke about this last year and the year before. We said: Brothers, we should save all this. Instead of spending 250 million dinars we should spend 150 million dinars and save 100 million dinars. When we saved 100 million dinars and decreased our imports of these commodities, we began to shout. The Americans said: Look at the Jamahiriyah, it is challenging the people; the state is saying no to the people. They do not say that the country has saved 100 million dinars. They do not say the country spent only 150 million dinars. They say: Poor people, instead of 250 million dinars for imports they can only spend 150 million dinars; they are 100 million dinars short to buy what they need. But we have decreased that sum. We should decrease it because if we continue to import these things in the future it will create a problem. Their experts have prepared a report, now under study, which says that in 10 years Libya will have doubled its present population. If it continues the way it is now, we will have a famine.

It is assumed that famines occur in India, China, Egypt, etc. But not in Libya. This is what I want to draw your attention to. If you do not heed what I told you last year and the year before, your children and their children will actually suffer from famine. You may not be able to find food for your 5-year old child when he is 15. I told you that the water resources of this country are poor, and that it is inevitable for us to do something to provide ourselves with food.

The war is all about food. The war between the Arabs and the Israelis in the Middle East at this phase centers on one thing—the Israelis want to seize the water. They want to capture the Jordan, Asi, Yarmuk, and Litani rivers in the first phase so that they can settle 12 million people in that region. Then they want to capture the Nile and the Euphrates to settle 24 million Jews from various parts of the world there. The battle is for water, the entire world is fighting for water because water provides food, and the battle is for food. When they manufacture the nuclear bomb, by which they can make a nation like Japan or any other kneel before them, it is because they want these nations to open the way to the water resources. They want to capture the roads leading to water and food resources.

Why do they fight among themselves? For food. The important thing is food. Discussing the budget earmarked for importing consumer goods in a serious manner is very important, as it concerns all Libyans who want to eat and drink water. Therefore every Libyan—educated or otherwise, woman or man, at home or employed—should be concerned with this budget because consumer goods are either bought by a household or their shortage is felt by a household. Even a veiled woman should be concerned about this budget.

This evening and through the Basic People's Congress of Al-Andalus, I would like to draw the attention of all basic people's congresses, when they debate the budget earmarked for importing consumer goods, to the fact that imports should not continue and that we should save money from this budget to manufacture these things ourselves. I have been disturbed by the report that says

Libyans are going hungry because they import everything and neglect their land. Egypt is hungry now because it continued to import after launching the open door policy and because it neglected its land. They lured them by money—by the dollar. Egyptians began to look for taxis, hotels, nightclubs, coffee shops, cinemas, exhibitions, etc, because these are money makers. They neglected the Nile, the land, and the cattle. Now they beg from the United States.

This is what the United States wants. The United States makes them reach such a point to compel them to kneel, and when they do kneel the United States imposes its conditions on them. Now they cannot withdraw their ambassador from the occupied land while the Israelis persecute the Palestinian people; they are unable to do so.

Why? Because the United States feeds them. This is what Al-Sadat did. The United States makes every state kneel before it and then realizes its objective by imposing its will. After it finishes with one state it turns to the others—the United States is an imperialist state and wants to seize the globe. This is the policy of subjugation. To resist it means we should not be compelled to import.

We are presently at the beginning of the road. If we now spend 250 million dinars to import food, then next year we will spend more, and in 5 years even more, and in 10 years, if you are still alive, even more than that. But where will you find the money? The 250 million will become a billion spent on food. This is because the population will increase and prices will go up. Unless national production increases, imports will not be reduced, and if imports are not reduced we will not be able to keep pace with this budget. This year 250 million; in 5 years it will be 500 million and in 10 years it will be 1 billion. Where will you find 1 billion dinars a year to buy food? This is not the solution. This is a dangerous path. It will lead to our subjugation. The correct path is for us, as of now, instead of spending 250 million dinars on food, to buy 150 million dinars worth, and thus save 100 million dinars and give it as loans to the people to establish plantations, keep cattle, and make water tanks and dams to preserve water. We can use the money to sink wells. We can use the money for fisheries. Medicine and medical equipment: this has been allocated 60 million dinars. We will say nothing about this.

Perhaps we cannot say anything about this so that we can save and cut down on something. It is not possible for us to manufacture medical equipment or medicines now. Medicine is necessary; 60 million dinars may become 100 million and after 5 years it becomes 300 million. You have to think about how to save for this. You will need to import medicines and medical equipment for many years. When there is a shortage you will start saying there is no [word indistinct]; there is money. Why is a certain type of surgery not carried out? Well, the equipment is not available. Why? We could not buy it. Why is a specific medicine not available at the drugstore? Well, medicine is expensive; a few tonnes costs a few million. As of now, you will have to think about ways of saving in order to buy goods which are not available here. People still do not have medication; they become ill and come to you with tuberculosis. Why should you provide them with surgery?

Then there are essential goods. The essentials are clothes and sundries—clothes, shoes, bedding, cleaning material, and stationery. For these they have estimated 250 [amount not further specified] a year. When you cut down on stationery, cleaning material, fabrics, and suitcases, you may save 50 million a year, even 100 million. Add to this the 100 million we have saved on food and we would save 200 million. With this we could operate something else, provide loans for some of you which you could invest and obtain more money to operate the projects you were talking about such as the dams, water tanks [words indistinct]. Things which would help production—even if they are not food—which are in demand in the world. We can produce them for export and make money. There is no point in exporting wheat to a country which does not want to import wheat. You will have to produce something else needed by the world, then you can sell it. With that money you can buy other things; or you can tell them to buy some goods and some wheat; take this orange and give me wheat [words indistinct]. You sell something which will bring you money to enable you to buy what you need. Anything other than gasoline; gasoline is not production at all and it has a limited life span. However, oranges, wheat, and dams have no limited life span. Gasoline has a limited life span. You cannot plant gasoline—it is not possible. The gasoline industry will come to a halt when the gasoline that exists underground is exhausted. The agricultural industry will not come to an end as long as you plant. There is no limit to agriculture; it is a continuous process.

Essentially goods such as clothes, shoes, cleaning material, stationery, and others require 250 million this year. You will have to discuss whether the Libyan people should pay 250 million for stationery, blankets, and clothes, or save a quarter, a third, or a half. An alternative is to shut their eyes and tell them that this year we will do without and save the 250 million. We need a miracle for this.

During the year 1986, let us say, it [not further specified] was 230 million and in the year 1988 [words indistinct]—that is to say, it has increased by 26 million during the period 1986-88. The basic [as heard] has increased by 245 million. Then there is the agricultural sector. For this you import goods to the value of approximately 70 million—fertilizers, machinery, pumps, insecticides, etc. These we need for agriculture; they may be necessary. Then we have the other basic commodities and household goods, gold, sportswear, games, musical instruments, various building material, construction machinery, timber, steel, security devices, wire, rope,

cables, asphalt machinery, oils, grease, gas appliances, and insecticides. Some people say that Flit [a brand of insecticide] is scarce and that they have to buy it on the black market. We should understand that if we need this commodity and we decide to decrease the amount we import this will cause a shortage. We should know this and know why we have decided to do this. We should know how much we need in order not to cause a shortage.

In addition to the items I have mentioned, there are chemicals, telecommunications equipment, lifesaving equipment to be used at sea, equipment for fighting pollution, passenger vehicles, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, spectacles, furniture, radio and television transmission equipment, watches, tobacco—all these will cost you about 370 million dinars.

We should discuss all this and ask: Is all this necessary, and do we need all this? Some things we can import in smaller quantities. The aim is to save money. You will only know how to ensure your future if you know where you are heading, and only when you discuss these issues. This is because the money is estimated. I told you that you annually sell 900,000 barrels of oil, and that will bring you 1 billion [currency not specified]—this is a possibility because the figure may be less or perhaps more.

We say that we earn about 100 million dinars a month. In some months it might not [words indistinct] If we stop exporting or if a problem crops up we will have to do without. And on other occasions it is quite enough or even more than enough and instead of 100 we get 110, 120, or 150. At least you know that what you are selling is oil and this is its price. You earn so much money from it every year. And now here are the things you need. It is exactly like one's own family. You earn 100 dinars a month. And you have a list of the things your family needs like clothes, shoes, food, car, medical treatment, education expenses, and so on.

You decide for yourselves. For instance you decide that you will have do without sweets or that you do not need to buy sweets every week; that you do not need to go to the movies every week but only once a month. The children don't go to the zoo every Friday and thus save so many dinars each week. Instead of buying flour we buy wheat; instead of wheat we buy barley and vary our food—one time we buy wheat, another time barley, and another time corn.

As for clothes, we do not need to buy new clothes for every festival. We should buy clothes once then perhaps clean them, thus we would save a little bit.

A person receives a salary or an income from whatever source, whether from his workshop, his farm, or his pension, and has a family. He thinks out what to buy and what to spend on the farm every month [words indistinct] is better to spend it on farm animals or spend all the money and sit and wait. The money we save will make income go further. Instead of 100 the income will appear to be 200. This is because we will start a workshop, a poultry farm, or a place of some sort. The annual income becomes 1,000.

The Libyan people will have to decide. For example, they would say: Brothers, instead of spending 1,000 abroad to buy goods let us spend 700 and save 300. We will decide what to do with the 300 that we have saved in 1988. It is most definitely a 100% improvement when we can save 300. This means, however, that 10 things will be reduced by 3. Throughout the year you would know that 10 have been reduced by 3. For example, if you have been getting 10 boxes of Flit you should only expect to receive 7. And if you use one every month you will be without for 3 months. You should not say that you have had none for 3 months because you had gone to the shops and found none. It is quite right you will not find any because from the first day we decided that we were going to save 30%. Instead of 10 suits we import 7 and save 3. If you use 10 a year, you would be using 7 instead of 10.

If we were importing cars we would import 7 cars instead of 10 for every 10 people. We would have three people without cars; in other words, 30% of the people without cars. Those 30% would complain because they did not get cars: Why has one managed to buy a car? Correct; it is because we have decided to tolerate a 30% reduction. Three out of every 10 people will not get cars. However, those seven who get a car should get them in an approved way. We apply certain conditions, for example, for those who pay early, or live far away, or apply early. If we discover that someone has given it to a friend or a relative we bring him to court for trail, because we have said from the start that for every 10 people there are 7 cars, and 3 people must remain without cars this year. Those seven people must get their cars deservedly. That is how things should be.

You decide to reduce certain things and when you feel a shortage at the end of the year you start to complain and journalists begin to write about you, saying that those three have no car, no clothes, and no teachers. They would laugh and say: Very well, increase the pressure on them and reduce oil purchases so that the three become five and the number of those complaining would increase. What is the aim of this? It is to submit to the United States. They come and tell you that you should not stand in a queue, that you should have a car, [words indistinct], what sort of revolution is this? What sort of socialism is this? What sort of [words indistinct] and what sort of Al-Qadhdhafi is this. Is he really defending you and feeling for you? He is deceiving you so that you spend all your money on goods, so that you consequently destroy yourself, and this is what he wants. I beg your pardon; he is like the devil deceiving people and on the day of judgement he would say: I simply invited you and you have followed me. It is said in the Koran: I fear Allah. I lied to you and deceived you, however, why did

you respond to me? I deceived you because you are weak and walked along with me. I knew it was deception and I laugh at you so that you will fall in the fire.

This is what happens on the last day. The United States is the same on the last day. It would say: I have deceived you, I am an imperialist state and this my policy and my interest; I would not think of the Egyptian people's interests. I have deceived you, you followed me and you fell, and that is it. You, the Libyan people, I have deceived you, I told you such and such and I laughed at you; you listened and followed me and this is what is required; it is my policy. Why did you not say no, you were free. You then repent when it is too late.

This is what we want to draw attention to at the basic people's congresses so that they will debate this budget adequately, in freedom, and with the majority of the people attending the congresses, in order to decide that instead of spending this budget on buying goods from abroad we should save it and invest in internally manufactured goods.

I foresee that food is most important. No one can tell me differently. Lie to your legs and they will walk you where you want; lie to your stomach and hunger will leave you. You can put anything or nothing on your feet, yet they will walk. However, you cannot lie to your stomach. If you become hungry, you remain hungry. You can die from hunger and thirst. The world knows this wise saying. The imperialist powers know it and they deprive people of food so that they will fall. Hunger is not a play. He who suffers from hunger will fall. We must not fall, so we must not be hungry; and to make sure that we will not be hungry, we must think how to provide our food. The struggle continues.

Sudan

Further on Assassination of Iraq's Al-Hakim

No Suspect Held Yet

JN191813 Khartoum SUNA in English 1753 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 19 (SUNA)—Security authorities have not yet detained any person suspected of killing Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim who was slain here last Sunday, Police Director General Ibrahim Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim stated here Tuesday.

General 'Abd al-Karim said the Iranian charge d'affaires here has asked for sending the body of the killed to the latters family in Iran adding that central investigation police director general had told the Iranian diplomat that diplomatic measures will be made regarding delivery of the body of assassinated Mahdi al-Hakim who was carrying a passport issued in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

On the other hand the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers has issued, here Tuesday, a statement on the said incident expressing the Council's deep regret regarding the horrible crime.

The Secretariat rejected the style of political assassinations and physical liquidation saying that Sudan's territory will never be a scene for such ugly crimes.

'Important Clues' Found

JN201211 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jan (SUNA)—The security forces have uncovered important facts connected with the assassination of the Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim. It is certain the police will soon be able to identify the culprits.

The attorney general has reaffirmed that the committee formed by the security services has found important clues in the case that will lead to finding the culprits. He declined to give any further information.

Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has also refused to disclose any details about the assassination. He said the security services, which are still investigating the incident, have all the information.

The director general of the police force said investigations of the assassination are proceeding steadily and in total secrecy. He said all units have been called up to work on solving the case.

The director general of the police force denied reports published yesterday on the arrest of some suspects. He said the security authorities have not arrested anyone but are continuing their investigations and interrogation of witnesses and others.

The charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy yesterday met with the Foreign Ministry under secretary and conveyed the Iranian people's condemnation of Al-Hakim's assassination and expressed Iran's desire to transport the body of the deceased to Tehran, as the victim's brothers are there. The Foreign Ministry under secretary explained to the Iranian charge d'affaires that the deceased carried a passport issued from the UAE and that the Foreign Ministry has sent a cable to that effect to the UAE.

Some newspapers reported today that Al-Hakim's body was transported aboard a private plane to Tehran yesterday and that more than one Arab embassy in Khartoum had played a part in directing and implementing the assassination of the Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim. Official sources here have not confirmed these reports.

Body Will Go To Iran

JN201138 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jan (SUNA)—The responsible Sudanse authorities today decided to transfer the body of the late Mahdi al-Hakim who was assassinated on Monday at the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum to Iran. The reason is that most of the late Mahdi's family is living in Iran. There are two brothers, two daughters and a son there, while only one son is in Dubai, UAE.

The decision came after contacts between responsible government authorities and relatives of the late Mahdi in both the UAE and Iran. Each party requested that the body be transferred to it.

A special Iranian plane will arrive later today to transfer the body to Iran.

Al-Turabi Condemns Killing

JN201118 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jan, (SUNA)—The secretary general of the opposition National Islamic Front "NIF", Dr. Hassan al-Turabi, yesterday condemned the killing of the leader of the Iraqi opposition Shi'ite Moslem Movement at the Hilton Hotel here last Sunday as a form of "political terrorism."

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, Al-Turabi described the assassination of Mahdi Al-Hakim, who had come to Khartoum to attend the second national congress of the NIF, as a violation of the sanctity of the Sudanese territories.

Al-Turabi told the conference that the deceased had come to Sudan despite an apology by the NIF that he could not attend its congress for security reasons.

He said Al-Hakim had arranged the procedures of his entry into the country and residence in the Hilton Hotel by himself.

He said he had met at his house with late Al-Hakim who told him that he had planned to meet with the Supreme Council president and the prime minister.

Pointing out that he did not want to comment on the issue of the assassination while investigation is underway, Al-Turabi described the incident as having "security indications and political suspicions." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers yesterday issued statement condemning the assassination of the Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim.

Deputy Premier Meets EPLF Officials 16 Jan

EA162239 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Sudan, Sid Ahmad Al-Husayn, [title as heard] has received and held talks with representatives of the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front]. Comrade (Muhammad 'Ali Umar), member of the EPLF Central Committee and head of foreign relations in Sudan, and Comrade (Uthman Salih), member of the EPLF Central Committee and representative for refugees.

The Sudanese official told the EPLF representatives that Ethiopia is not ready for peace and this is demonstrated by its failure to solve the Eritrean issue in a modest and legitimate manner.

He added that we in Sudan are trying to solve our internal conflict, that is the southern Sudanese question, in a modest and peaceful way. He said we have no intention of making the Eritrean issue [words indistinct] with that of the southern Sudanese question.

SPLM/SPLA Detail 12 Jan Kapoeta Capture

EA191802 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The official SPLM/SPLA Military High Command has just released the details of the capture of Kapoeta enemy garrison, which took place last week, 12 January 1988. According to the official SPLM/SPLA spokesman, the release of the details was delayed for two reasons.

1. The SPLA forces were pursuing the remnants for the last 7 days and that 91 of these remnants were killed. The fleeing forces were dispersed in two [as heard]: One group fled toward Uganda and the other toward Kenya. SPLA forces pursued these remnants until yesterday, when they entered Uganda territory. Out of respect for the international boundary, SPLA forces stopped pursuing them into Uganda. The SPLA does not mind if the Ugandan authorities hand them over to the Sudanese Government directly or through the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]. The group that fled toward Kenya has been blocked from entering Kenya and are now completely surrounded.

The second reason for delaying the announcement was to give Sadiq enough hope to make a fool of himself by publicly lying and being caught behind in his lies, as he was until yesterday saying that his forces were in control of Kapoeta, when the SPLA commander in chief raised the flag on 12 January 1988, 7 days ago, and left for operations in another front.

According to our correspondent in the area, the total enemy force that was annihilated in Kapoeta was an infantry brigade consisting of Battalion 107, Battalion 439, Battalion 129, Battalion 128 and support units, all

under the overall command of Colonel (Pac 'Abd al-Munim Mahjub al-Rafiq), who, according to his passport and captured documents was a representative of the Ministry of Defense to Egypt from 17 January 1987 to 25 June 1987, after which he was transferred to Kapoeta.

The details of the capture of Kapoeta are as follows: Bright Star [as heard] capture of Kapoeta was under the direct operational command of the commander in chief, assisted by Alternate Commander (Gilario Modi Horinyang), zonal commander of Eastern Equatoria. [passage omitted]

More victories lie ahead for Bright Star. The whole enemy force at Kapoeta was either killed in action, captured or dispersed in the bushes, and they are still being pursued. This morning three more were captured and brought to the SPLA by the Didinga people.

According to the captured documents, the enemy force destroyed by the SPLA consisted of 24 officers and 932 other ranks, all regular Army, plus militia, police, prisons and game [as heard] whose strength is not known yet. [passage omitted]

Idris al-Banna on Relief to Southern Area

JN191900 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 19 (SUNA)—The so called Sudan Peoples Liberation Organization "SPLA" has expressed support to the activities of the Council of Mercy that deal with transference of relief to the famine stricken people in the area of fighting between government forces and the rebels, Vice President of Supreme Council and head of Council of Mercy Idris al-Banna said here today in a press conference.

He said that the Council of Mercy had sent two members to Addis Ababa to meet Colonel John Garangs movement where they came with the agreement from there about convening of another meeting on Jan 22 to 27.

Al-Banna added that the rebels [as received] consisted of two Muslims and two Christians who are members of Council of Mercy and peace committee.

The Council of Mercy has been formed after the visit of Supreme Council member Pacifico Lado Lolik to the southern region recently. It has nothing to do with politics.

Kuwait

Ambassador Views Soviet Relations With Iran

LD2009511 Kuwait KUNA in English 0801 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj was quoted as saying Wednesday that the Soviet Union is with the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

In an interview with "AL-ANBA" daily newspaper, the ambassador said the Soviet Union has linked the economic agreement with Iran with the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Answering a question on Moscow's position toward implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, Al-Du'ayj said, "Let's be frank, the Soviet Union has not assisted Iran against the Arabs and its positions have been well-known for the two belligerents. And Moscow has not supplied Iran with arms but since the beginning of the conflict it has been against the war."

The ambassador said however, the Soviet Union has long border with Iran and it is natural to be keen on good neighborly relations with Iran.

The ambassador expressed satisfaction over the progress of relations between Moscow and Kuwait last year.

He disclosed that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had paid tribute to Kuwaiti leadership when he met him to congratulate him on the October Revolution anniversary.

Answering another question on the prospects of relations between the Soviet Union and the Gulf states which do not have diplomatic ties with Moscow, the ambassador said, "Relations between countries, big and small, is something important and vital and help maintain stability."

He said however, that all the Gulf states are well aware of their interests and emphasized that "our principal objective is to make the Gulf a lake of peace and security."

Saudi Arabia

Further on Fahd Meeting With 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN1771901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (INA)—An INA correspondent said that 'Izzat Ibrahim has conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The RCC vice chairman expressed Iraq's appreciation and support for Saudi Arabia's positions on pan-Arab issues and the treacherous Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. He also reviewed developments in the Iranian aggression, the sound military situation, and the full readiness of Iraqi forces to destroy any attempt by the Iranian regime and foil its suspect plans in the region.

His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reiterated Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq in its defense of principles and pan-Arab values. He pointed out that by its steadfastness and great sacrifices, Iraq stresses the capability of the Arab nation to stand up again and continue its militant march despite all challenges against it.

The correspondent also said 'Izzat Ibrahim affirmed that the close coordination and consultations between the two fraternal countries have produced positive results in supporting Iraq in its steadfastness in the face of the Iranian aggression.

His Majesty King Fahd praised Iraq's continued initiatives to unify the Arab ranks and achieve a responsible attitude of solidarity with the Arab nation's causes.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all areas, developments in the Arabian Gulf region in particular and the Arab developments in general, and the resolutions of the extraordinary Amman summit and ways to implement them.

King Fahd Interviewed on GCC, Arab Affairs

JN1711105 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jan 88 pp 3, 7

[Interview with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] The eighth summit meetings of the GCC states recently concluded. These states are facing the most serious challenge to their direct regional security in their history due to the continuation of the Iranian aggression in various ways. These range from direct armed attacks on Iraq, Kuwait, and international navigation to indirect attacks through terrorist acts that have gone as far as attacking the Islamic holy places in Mecca.

What is the assessment of the custodian of the two holy mosques of the results of this summit during these circumstances, as well as the ways and times these results will be implemented? Now that the summit has issued its statement and resolutions, can we state that there is always what is called "in between the lines," that which was not explicitly announced but hinted at politically?

[Fahd] What came in the eighth GCC summit's final statement in this regard was clear and explicit. It was based on the sincere feelings the region's states harbor for the Muslim Iranian people.

The problem lies basically in the ruling party in Iran, which is adopting a shortsighted policy aimed at harming all of the region's states, including the Iranian people. This policy serves the aims of world Zionism, which continuously seeks to sow the seeds of sedition among the Islamic nation in order to weaken and preoccupy it with marginal issues.

Therefore, and out of the awareness of our historic responsibility, we were doing our utmost through declared or undeclared plans to benefit from all available opportunities, in cooperation with all brothers and friends, to explain matters to the Iranian leaders in the hope they will fear God and spare their people who are greatly suffering from the wars and conflicts from which they gain nothing but backwardness and the loss of innocent souls.

[Nafi'] The advanced development of the GCC march has—as is no secret to the custodian of the two holy mosques—become a topic of discussion and argument in the Arab homeland regarding the GCC's present and future relationship with the Arab League, which is the unified political Arab home. Some say the GCC was set up as a result of the Arab League's failure to play its role, or that its role within the limits drawn up for it in 1945 was no longer sufficient to face up to the challenges that emerged and accumulated in the 1970s and 1980s. What is the opinion of the custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Fahd] The GCC represents a brotherly coordination aimed at enhancing cooperation in line with the Arab League Charter. All of its aims are designed to create support for the Arab League to attain its good aims. Therefore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is doing its best to bring about the success of the great role being played by the Arab League so that it will carry out its role in the best possible way and in a manner that enables it to confront present challenges. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is honoring all of its obligations toward the Arab League.

[Nafi'] Relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt have been restored. History reveals to us that Egyptian-Saudi cooperation has always been one of the most important factors of security, stability, the aversion of foreign dangers, and unified Arab action at various levels. What is your present view and future expectation of the role this Egyptian-Saudi cooperation can play in its current new stage, taking into consideration the following points:

First, The Arab countries exposure to two serious penetrations of their national and pan-Arab security for the first time in their contemporary history. These are the expansionist, racist, colonialist Israeli penetration which refuses to withdraw from all of the occupied Arab territories or recognize the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights, headed by their right to repatriation and self-determination; and the expansionist Iranian penetration hiding under the guise of Islam and which is refusing to end the war and establish good-neighborly relations with the Arab countries.

Second, the reactivation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact which President Husni Mubarak has urged.

Third, the enhancement of Arab economic and production capabilities and Arab war industries through a joint Arab plan.

Fourth, the imaginary battle which takes place from time to time between Islam and Arabism in the region.

[Fahd] Cooperation between Saudi Arabia and fraternal Egypt proceeds from Arab and Islamic bases. It is a cooperation based on righteousness and piety. Here lies the secret of the success which surfaces from time to time as a result of Saudi-Egyptian cooperation. This cooperation is based on amity and sincere fraternal ties not only on the official level but also on the popular level.

This cooperation is continuously expanding in all of the development and vital fields. This bolsters the two fraternal countries' potential and enables them to perform their role with effectiveness on Arab, Islamic, and international levels. From this premise, the leaders of the two fraternal countries spare no efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation through all available channels. This cooperation will be beneficial, God willing.

[Nafi'] Saudi Arabia is the largest oil-producing country and, as a result, has important leverage on the international energy market which is closely linked to the international financial market. What plan has Saudi Arabia adopted to maintain stability in these two markets and how will this plan serve development projects in the Kingdom and developing countries at a time when the world is experiencing more than one economic and financial crisis simultaneously characterized by recession and inflation?

[Fahd] There are many other countries besides Saudi Arabia which, in cooperation with the Kingdom, are exerting efforts to safeguard world stability in the oil and financial fields. The attainment of stability is a basic and crucial factor for bridging the gap that exists between the North and the South. This will enable industrial countries to keep their markets and will enable developing countries to carry out development for their countries and people.

[Nafi'] The United States and the USSR are trying to establish a historical accord between them to ward off the perils of nuclear weapons to mankind and to liquidate their arsenals. They also seek to find international solutions to regional conflicts and disputes, including the Middle East conflicts and disputes, and specifically the

Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war. What is the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this historical international event and what is the Kingdom's relationship with each of the superpowers?

[Fahd] We were very happy over the important, historical meeting between the U.S. and USSR leaders, particularly that this meeting primarily sought to reduce tension resulting from the ever-increasing nuclear power which threatens mankind with extermination. However, it is regrettable that issues of concern to our region were not given their due importance. Most probably they tackled these issues in one way or another, but the results were not commensurate with hopes and aspirations. We can learn lessons from this and must rearrange our cards.

[Nafi'] Through the comprehensive popular uprising in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, and which also spread to the territories occupied in 1948, the Palestinian people have forcibly imposed their cause on the international public and world governments, including U.S. citizens and the U.S. Administration which is strategically allied to Israel. This historical event has demonstrated that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and those living in the diaspora are united under the PLO's leadership.

In your opinion, does this historic event not impose new specific responsibilities on the Arab governments and people to strike while the iron is hot to serve the Palestinian people and their organization and the international conference issue for the settlement of the Middle East crisis? In your assessment, what should be the nature of these responsibilities and how can they be translated into practice?

[Fahd] The popular uprising currently taking place on Palestinian soil shows that these people possess the potential and capabilities qualifying them to establish an independent state on their land like all other people in the world.

Arab and Islamic countries and all peace-loving countries who value freedom must support the Palestinians' march to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

[Nafi'] International reports mention that Saudi Arabia's economic development plans have achieved large strides in industry, agriculture, and services. What are the specific targets of development in the 1980's? Every development plan has its negative aspects that must be tackled. In your opinion, what is the nature of these negative points in the Saudi development experience and the means to confront them?

[Fahd] The most prominent characteristics of our development plans are that they are comprehensive and flexible in order to correct their course step by step in a manner that is in line with our needs and that will not conflict with our religion and customs.

That is why we succeeded, with God's help and support, in proceeding with our development march for the attainment of our objectives without any negative aspects that are worth mentioning.

[Nafi'] Many Saudi officials discussed the role the Egyptian labor force has played on all levels in the development projects in Saudi Arabia. How does the custodian of the two holy mosques assess this role and the future of the Egyptian labor force in Saudi Arabia?

[Fahd] The Egyptian brothers have participated with us in achieving development in our country with self-denial and loyalty. This reflects the close cooperation and cohesion that exists between the two Muslim people in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Throughout many decades this cooperation has taken and continues to assume many forms on the official and popular levels. We bless any positive endeavor in this regard.

[Nafi'] Can you tell us about the role of the technicians and the intellectuals in all fields, not to mention the role of the Saudi woman who is positively contributing to Saudi society? What has become of the consultative council Your Majesty said would be established in the Kingdom?

[Fahd] We thank God very much for having this large number of educated Saudi youths. When I say Saudi youths I mean the young men and women of whom we are proud because they continue to abide by the Islamic religion, and because they are mature and aware of their responsibilities. With respect to the establishment of a consulatative council, it will take place soon, God willing. In any case, consulations are an indivisible part of our religion and customs; we carry out consulatations daily on all our affairs.

[Nafi'] What message would the custodian of the two holy mosques wish to address to the Egyptian Government and people at this stage?

[Fahd] The Egyptian people are a great people and possess enormous capabilities. The Egyptian people's history is replete with glories and feats. The Egyptian people have also forged many immortal stands for which we thank them. From this premise, we hope President Mubarak will succeed in mobilizing all of these capabilities in a way that will further enhance the welfare and progress of the Egyptian people and enable Egypt, under President Mubarak, to assume its vanguard role at the side of its Arab brothers.

[Nafi'] Last year Saudi diplomacy was actively attempting to reconcile the politically conflicting Arab countries to build an overall Arab solidarity. How far have these diplomatic efforts reached, particularly regarding Syria and Iraq, Syria and the PLO, Syria and Egypt, Jordan and the PLO, and Algeria and Morocco?

[Fahd] The answer perhaps lies in what has been accomplished by the Arab summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord which was held in Amman. On this occasion we thank everyone who participated within this framework. We thank God for the positive results reached, including the opportunities for rapprochement by opening the channels of constructive dialogue which we hope will unify Arab ranks in a manner pleasing God and fulfilling the aspirations of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

[Nafi'] It was noted that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran and Riyadh more than once before and after the eighth GCC summit. The custodian of the two holy mosques received him each time he arrived in Riyadh. What are the practical results of this shuttle?

[Fahd] The exchange of visits between Saudi and Syrian officials is part of the joint cooperation aimed at holding consultations and exchanging views. We thank the Syrian officials, headed by my brother His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, for their good initiative in this regard. We hope these initiatives will have the best possible results in a manner bolstering cooperation between our two fraternal countries and serving the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, there are some who stress the importance of restoring Arab integration, particularly in the field of industrialization, following the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations. This stems from the need to establish supreme pan-Arab projects conducive to pan-Arab security. What is the opinion of the custodian of the two holy mosques? Do you prefer the diversification of Arab countries' sources of arms? How can Arab arms industries be promoted?

[Fahd] As is known, industry is one of the key elements of power for any nation. On our part, we give special attention to this aspect. We thank God we managed to set up numerous industrial projects, most prominent among which are the two cities of Al-Jubayl and Yanbu'. These are two of the largest and most modern industrial complexes based on high technology. The qualified Saudi manpower has been trained and prepared to deal with these accomplishments and play its development role in the best possible way.

There are joint industrial activities on regional and Arab levels. These take various official and popular forms and we support all constructive efforts in this regard. The subject of an arms industry is the focus of our attention with the aim of consolidating our defensive capabilities and turning them into a deterrent force capable of repulsing aggression. Accordingly, we draw up our plans in the field of military industries. Every fruitful and constructive cooperation with fraternal and friendly states falls within this framework.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, do you think Arab fragmentation is one of the reasons for the continuation of the Gulf war or do you attribute the continuation of this war to other reasons unrelated to the Arabs? What is the final solution?

[Fahd] What surfaces within Arab ranks cannot be attributed to a certain condition, but is linked to several factors which take a long time to explain. What is important is that reconciliation is not a far-fetched issue. What is important is that we should accustom ourselves to joint fraternal dealings based on practical and logical grounds. Thus, we can provide the appropriate circumstances for further cohesion and a bountiful offering for the sake of our fateful issues.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, the Mecca incidents during the pilgrimage demonstrated the Iranian rulers determination to undermine the region's stability and harm its security, not to mention the division they seek to achieve among Islamic countries. The wisdom and self-restraint with which Saudi Arabia handled these incidents have aborted the schemes the Iranians sought to implement through these incidents.

In the opinion of the custodian of the two holy mosques, what kind of Arab coordination is needed to confront Iranian schemes and did the recent GCC summit reach an agreement on specific measures in this respect?

[Fahd] Arab coordination is important. We are working to promote this coordination in various fields. What assures us in this regard is that there is a good understanding of the nature of the Iranian regime on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels. This is confirmed by the successive statements that were and are being made throughout the world, on all levels, by leaders, scholars, and senior officials who express their strong denunciation of the shameful acts undertaken by the ruling regime in Iran against its neighbor Arab countries and others.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, at the recent OPEC ministerial conference it was agreed with difficulty on an extension of the agreement setting the oil-production ceiling at 15.06 million barrels per day for another 6 months, and abidance by the selling price of $18 dollars per barrel. However, this agreement faces many pressures from the oil market, and some fear another collapse in oil prices similar to those that took place in 1985 and 1986.

Saudi Arabia has announced it will not abide by this official price if its production quota is threatened by other OPEC countries' violation of their quotas, or as a result of their selling their oil at a lower price.

Custodian of the two holy mosques, how do you view the current situation on the international market? How can the current OPEC agreement remain valid in view of the challenges it is experiencing and how can another collapse in oil prices be averted?

[Fahd] Everyone knows the oil prices were set on the basis of a comprehensive concept of the world market's need for this strategic product and on the assesment of puchasing power. That's why one cannot ignore one aspect at the expense of the other.

From this premise, two factors must be taken into consideration. The first is to secure abidance by the production ceiling to prevent an oil glut that will bring about a drop in prices. All of the parties concerned are eager to avoid this.

The second factor is to stabilize oil prices for the longest possible period to attain a world economic stability beneficial to the international community. When Saudi Arabia warns against the consequences of tampering with oil prices, it does so because it is aware of the perils that may arise as a result of violations. We hope cordial understanding prevails and that OPEC is guided by reasonable principles. We also affirm the importance of complete abidance by the agreement by all parties.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, you tried to approximate viewpoints between Algeria and Morocco, particularly with respect to the Sahara issue. Can you tell us the results of this endeavor?

[Fahd] Fraternal Morocco and Algeria have come a long way toward strengthening their fraternal ties. This is not strange for two noble countries and people who share the same Arab and Islamic bonds and who have shared the same struggle against the usurpers for a long period of time.

That is why I am greatly pleased when I hear reports from time to time on meetings between Algeria and Morocco under the auspices of my brother His Majesty King Hassan II and my brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjdid. May God protect them and guide their steps.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, last week President Husni Mubarak visited the Kingdom and other sisterly states and held talks with you and other Arab leaders on the Arab situation, efforts to hold an international peace conference, and ways to bolster Arab solidarity. What is your assessment of this visit and what do you think is the way to promote Arab action?

[Fahd] When His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visits the Gulf region he only visits his second home among his brothers and friends. Therefore, it was natural for his visit to have good, positive results in support of all efforts aimed at upholding our Arab and Islamic affairs, particularly those related to the Palestinian brothers' legitimate rights to restore their land and establish an independent state.

Therefore, all I hope and recommend for myself and my brothers the leaders of the Arab world is that we work jointly as one hand for the success of our fateful issues and that different personal judgments should not be a reason for discord and estrangement, but should be utilized to enrich our offerings and capabilities.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, a new year began and Lebanon is still in a whirlpool of conflicts. There is no real initiative to get out of this whirlpool. Do you see a way to rescue Lebanon and lead it out of this impasse, taking into consideration the fact some parties do not believe in the principle of take your hands off Lebanon?

[Fahd] Talk about Lebanon and about its people's sufferings and ordeals, which exceeded all expectations, is extremely painful. We cannot but pray that God the Almighty will remove this affliction and enlighten the minds of the responsible ones in Lebanon so they will conduct their affairs and promote understanding among themselves in a manner expediting the return of a normal life to Lebanon so its people can enjoy a secure and dignified life.

Therefore, there is a need to benefit from existing opportunities and from the sincere efforts exerted by sisterly and friendly states to emphasize the unity of Lebanon through peaceful coexistence, amity, and reconciliation among the various communities in sisterly Lebanon.

[Nafi'] Custodian of the two holy mosques, several African nations are still afflicted by huge debts, famine, drought, and desertification. What effective assistance can, in your opinion, be extended to these states to restore normal life?

[Fahd] We have special feelings toward the African nations in general due to the close Arab-African historical ties. Common denominators link us and this makes us more eager to cooperate through all channels to help the friendly African states surmount their hardships.

In this respect, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributes to this aid within the limits of its ability within the framework of bilateral relations and through the institutions and organizations in charge of resolving the African problems caused by indebtedness, drought, and famine. We hope this aid will not be a temporary treatment; concerted efforts should focus on supporting and promoting activities that serve development projects in these countries to ultimately create better living standards on the African Continent.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD182201 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 18 Jan (SPA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Jeddah this evening on a private visit to the Kingdom during which he will perform the minor pilgrimages. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Ali Nasir Comments on Aden Extradition Call

PM201539 London AL-SHARQ AL-AW'SAT in Arabic 20 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Ali Nasir: The Problem Is Not the Extradition of Individuals. Aden Moves To Urge Sanaa To Extradite Accused"]

[Text] London—Aden—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Agencies—Observers said yesterday that the call of the Supreme People's Council in South Yemen to work for the return of convicted persons currently abroad could be the beginning of moves by Aden to urge Sanaa to hand over former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his followers who were sentenced to death by the state security court in Aden.

The former president, who is presently in Sanaa, has described the statement—shown on Aden television—on the request for his extradition as an attempt to escalate tension and escape from some internal problems.

In a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the death sentences and the arrests will not solve the present crisis. Consequently, it is not a question of handing over an individual or individuals, but a problem involving thousands of people.

He listed the names of four people recently killed in Aden: Muhammad Nasir al-Sharmi, Hasan 'Azzan, Muhammad Tarish, and another—Ibn al-Najil.

He said that the number of those who have sought refuge in Sanaa over the past 2 weeks exceeds 1,000 and that people are fleeing the country at the rate of 40 to 50 a day.

The death sentence was carried out on five of the former president's followers following their conviction by the state security court and approval by the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council.

President Receives Resistance Leader Rajavi

JN171420 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Masud Rajavi, leader of the national council for the Iranian resistance, this morning. During the meeting, Rajavi expressed his congratulations to the president on the new year, as well as his hope that the war and the Khomeyni regime will end this year and that peace will prevail between the two neighborly countries.

They also exchanged views on the current regional situation. Rajavi stressed the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution 598 as a whole. President Saddam Husayn informed Rajavi of Iraq's welcome of Iranian political refugees.

Reportage on Visit of Vietnamese Delegation

Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN181348 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—The Arab S ialist Ba'th Party and the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] have signed a protocol for bilateral cooperation for 3 years. The protocol was signed for the Ba'th Party by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, deputy official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, and for the CPV by Hoang Bich Son, member of the Central Committee and director of the Foreign Relations Department.

The protocol calls for coordination and cooperation between popular and mass organizations in both countries, consultation and coordination in international organizations, and for the allocation of scholarships for higher education.

Ramadan Receives Delegation

JN181615 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received a CPV delegation led by Hoang Bich Son, director of the CPV Central Committee Foreign Relations Department.

Hoang Bicha Son conveyed greetings to President Saddam Husayn from the CPV Central Committee and Vietnam's desire to enhance and expand cooperation with Iraq in all fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked Hoang Bich Son to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Le Duan, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee. He affirmed Iraq's keenness to bosIter good relations with Vietnam. Ramadan briefed the Vietnamese delegation on Iraq's peaceful efforts and its genuine eagerness to accept international peace resolutions to end the war. He asserted that the Iraqis will continue to defend their territory with full determination until they crush the Khomeyniite conspiracy.

The Vietnamese Party official voiced the Vietnamese leadership's high appreciation for Iraq's sincere peace efforts and its acceptance of international resolutions in this regard. The meeting was attended by the director and members of the Foreign Relations Office in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

'Aziz Meets With Delegation

JN181707 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, today met with the CPV delegation led by Hoang Bich Son, Central Committee member and director of the party's Foreign Relations Department.

During the meeting, Hoang Bich Son stressed Vietnam's full solidarity with Iraq in its efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. He said his country will exert efforts to implement this resolution with the aim of achieving peace in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz briefed the Vietnamese delegation on diplomatic efforts to implement Resolution 598 to end the war. He stressed the need to concert all international efforts to force Iran to yield to international will.

Communique No 2,991 Details 18-19 Jan Combat

JN191723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,991 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces will remain victorious while inflicting on our country's enemies, the renegade Khomeyniites, more losses through their heroic activities. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force today flew 67 combat missions. It inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in weapons and hardware. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The brave helicopter gunship knights achieved 40 combat sorties today. Through these sorties they inflicted new losses in scoundrels, weapons, and equipment on the aggressors. Our knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one scoundrel was killed and four infantry positions were destroyed.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, two enemy personnel were killed.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one machinegun and three infantry positions were destroyed and their crews killed or wounded.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, one enemy soldier was killed and five infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed or wounded.

7. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units and were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 January 1988

Two New Ministerial Appointments Decreed
JN162032 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 88

["Text" of Presidential Decree 58 issued by President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad 16 January]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragrapgh D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

1. Justice Minister Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi shall be appointed minister of higher education and scientific research.

2. Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali, chairman of the State Consultative Council [Majlis Shura al-Dawlah], shall be appointed justice minister.

The competent ministers are entrusted with carrying out this decree.

[Dated] Baghdad, 16 January 1988

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Paper Criticizes Arab Contacts With Iran
JN191000 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] In its editorial today entitled "Only What Is Right Is Right," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: For some time certain Arab parties have been making moves and contacts that are surprising and raise questions. They return us to the climate that existed prior to the Amman summit. One of the objectives of the Amman summit was to seek to change this climate.

Such moves and contacts are being made under the cover of the Iranian regime's desire to establish amicable relations with Arab countries and its desire not to expand the war, for its hostility and war are directed at Iraq alone.

The least one can say about such moves and contacts is that they constitute a return to the old policy of exonerating the Iranian regime, improving its ugly image, and depicting it as a docile lamb, a policy that can be construed only as an attempt to isolate Iraq from its Arab brothers and to distort the truth about the conflict with the charlatan Khomeyni's Iran.

All such moves are taking place at a time when the charlatans' regime is preparing to launch a new aggression against Iraq without changing any of its intentions, behaviors, or attitudes toward other Arab states, particularly the Arabian Gulf states.

Needless to say, moves of such a nature and with such an intent and at such a time conflict with the Amman summit resolutions in word and spirit. The Amman summit resolutions affirmed the need to comply with the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact and called for solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression.

These were the very resolutions to which all the representatives of the Arab states participating in the summit had given their signature. These resolutions were met with satisfaction by the Arab nation's governments and masses and had a positive international response.

Therefore, we say that such moves and contacts do not serve Arab solidarity but directly harm it. They do not consolidate the Amman summit resolutions but violate them. Above all, they conflict with all pan-Arab values and concepts.

Those who are carrying out such moves and contacts can continue doing so if they want to depart from the Amman summit resolutions and undermine the climate that resulted.

However, we must point to another fact, namely, that the charlatans' regime in Tehran has committed such crimes that it cannot be cleansed or covered by any mask. The Arab nation, its governments and masses, know the truth of that regime well and have defined their stand toward it, a stand that cannot change unless that regime itself changes or changes its policy.

Nothing and no one can undermine Iraq's steadfastness, strength, and ability to destroy the Khomeyniite aggressors. Ultimately only what is right can be right.

Soviets Agree to 'Official' Reciprocal Visit

TA191440 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to receive an official delegation from Israel. This was announced by Gennadiy Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry chief of Information Administration. He said that the delegation will look into the activities of the interest desk dealing with Israel's matters at the Netherlands Embassy.

This agreement was reached yesterday in Helsinki in a meeting between Israeli representatives and an official of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

No date has yet been set for the visit of the Israeli delegation to Moscow. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 19 January also reports Gerasimov's remarks adding that: "Gerasimov stated at the same time that there was no room for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries as long as no overall settlement is achieved for the Middle East problem."]

Foreign Ministry Pleased

TA191508 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has welcomed the Soviet Union's announcement on permitting an Israeli diplomatic delegation to visit Moscow. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami adds, nonetheless, that Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ehud Gol expressed regret that the Soviet Union has again presented conditions for the resumption of full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Peres: No 'Great Achievement'

TA200825 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union has agreed to allow a four-man Israeli diplomatic delegation to go to Moscow in a few weeks' time for an initial stay of two months, according to Foreign Minister Peres's political adviser, Nimrod Novik.

Novik, who held eight hours of talks in Helsinki yesterday with the deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, Vladimir Terasov [name as published], told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that the Soviets plan to initiate intensive diplomatic moves in the near future in an attempt to advance the peace process.

The Soviet agreement to allow a visit to Moscow, announced by the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday, is viewed in Moscow as another step in improving relations with Israel in the context of Soviet peace efforts, Novik said. He said that Terasov emphasized that the agreement, as well as the planned Soviet initiative, will prove to "doubters" that the Soviet Union has no intention of "dictating" and has no set "blueprint" for a solution to the Middle East problem.

Both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office expressed satisfaction yesterday at the Soviet decision.

But Peres downplayed the significance of the Soviet move, telling THE POST that "this is not such a great achievement. It is a far cry from what might and should have happened, which is the resumption of full diplomatic relations and a breakthrough on aliya." [passage omitted]

Novik said that an "excellent atmosphere" prevailed in his talks with Terasov, although there were moments which were "definitely not easy." Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said that Prime Minister Shamir had maintained that Israel must insist on "reciprocity," and that this position had led to the Soviet decision. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Foreign Ministry's handling of the matter, Peres said yesterday: "We went our own way—and there were disagreements about the policy—but we did not demand reciprocity and our policy justified itself."

But officials in Jerusalem said last night that despite Gerasimov's statement that the Israeli mission would visit Moscow "for a short period" only—it was clear to the Soviets that the fate of their delegation here will henceforth be intertwined with that of the Israeli delegation there.

Nature of Delegation's Visit

TA200712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Talk in the studio between program moderator David Grossman and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Four Israeli diplomats will leave for the USSR for 2 months, as a diplomatic delegation, at the invitation of the Soviets. Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, received the invitation yesterday. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, good morning. Who handed the invitation to Nimrod Novik?

[Ben-'Ami] Novik met in Helsinki with Gennadiy Tarasov, the deputy chief of the Middle East Countries Department of the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry. Tarasov was accompanied by Aleksey Chistyakov, the person who headed [as heard] the current Soviet consular delegation in Israel.

[Grossman] What exactly does the invitation say? What are the tasks of the delegation? What are its limitations?

[Ben-'Ami] The invitation is to four Israeli diplomats who will receive a 2-month visa to the USSR. Their mandate is very similar to that of the Soviet delegation in Israel, although the Soviet invitation talks of a diplomatic rather than a consular delegation. There is talk of the delegation being able to examine and reside in the Israeli consular wing of the Netherlands Embassy in the Soviet Union, which represents Israel's interests.

[Grossman] Will there be any restrictions on the delegation's movement throughout the Soviet Union?

[Ben-'Ami] Together with the invitation, Tarasov brought the list of rights which the Israeli diplomats will enjoy in the USSR. These are the full rights enjoyed by foreign diplomats in Moscow. It should be mentioned that foreign diplomats accredited to Moscow are limited in their movement outside Moscow. Any exit from Moscow requires the approval of the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry. Still, the Israeli diplomats will be given all the rights enjoyed by foreign diplomats in Moscow.

[Grossman] Will they also be able to meet with Jews there?

[Ben-'Ami] The invitation made no mention whatsoever of work related to the Jews but rather to the Netherlands Embassy, which conducts consular activities on behalf of Israel. In addition, of course, this Israeli team will, for example, be able to examine the Israeli Embassy building which is still there in Moscow and which belongs to the State of Israel.

[Grossman] Are there already candidates for this delegation? Is the race for participation in this delegation on?

[Ben-'Ami] One may assume that the race is on. In any event, because we are talking of four visas, the composition of the delegation which is emerging in the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry will include a statesman, a consular person, a technical person who will have to examine the quality of the embassy building—if it is indeed to be used one day—and apparently a spokesman. This is a diversified delegation in terms of the occupation of its members, and it will therefore be capable of holding political contacts and contacts with Jews, looking into technical aspects, and perhaps also handling media coverage. In this context, I can tell you that there are already many journalists who want to accompany this delegation to Moscow.

[Grossman] You are still here, though. Tell me, I understand that the composition of the delegation will not be determined along party lines.

[Ben-'Ami] This will be a purely professional Foreign Ministry delegation.

[Grossman] As for our relations with the USSR, has there been any progress on the political plane toward the incorporation of the Soviet Union in the attempts to solve the Middle East conflict?

[Ben-'Ami] Dr Novik told me in a talk from Helsinki last night that he heard a very interesting remark from Tarasov to the effect that the Soviet leadership has instructed the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry to put the Middle East issue at the top of its agenda. As may be recalled, there was a feeling that the USSR was preoccupied with its bilateral negotiations with the United States, and that when it found time to deal with other issues, it had Afghanistan as well as the Iran-Iraq war on the agenda. An order has thus been issued to place the Middle East issue at the top of the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry agenda. Tarasov repeated that the Soviet Union is not interested in imposing a settlement in the framework of an international conference. Responsibility for the negotiations lies with the parties involved. The Soviet Union wants to help the sides reach the possibility of holding a dialogue. The Soviet Union is very interested in participating in a limited number of issues, such as the economic development of the region.

[Grossman] Was anything said about the Soviet Jewry issue, about allowing the Jews to leave the USSR?

[Ben-'Ami] Both Tarasov and Chistyakov do not deal with the Jewish issue in the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry, and therefore could not commit themselves to anything. They only said that the exit of Jews will continue, at least at its current rate.

[Grossman] Thank you very much, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Martirosov Examines Relations

TA151206 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
15 Jan 88 p B2

[Report on an interview with Georgiy Martirosov, head of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel, by 'Oded Granot; date and place not given]

[Text] "Suppose we let you send an Israeli delegation to the Soviet Union. Just imagine for a moment that you are an Israeli diplomat, relaxing in a chair sipping your coffee opposite the television set in Moscow, watching the prime-time newscast reporting a world-shattering scoop: A Soviet citizen has been detained on suspicion of spying for Israel. In the same breath the announcer says that the Israeli diplomats in Moscow wish to have their visas extended. How would you feel? What would you have done at that moment?"

The above was stated by Dr Georgiy Martirosov, the head of the Soviet delegation. A new arrival, barely a week in Israel, he has already been faced with the disclosure on television of the Kalmanovich affair, which "someone immediately tried to 'link' to the extension of our visas to Israel."

Dr Martirosov does not understand why, and is not eager to accept the explanation that this may have been an editorial decision.

[Granot] How did you feel?

[Martirosov] Embarrassed and confused.

[Granot] Was this merely because the two reports were "linked" on that specific television newscast, or due to the capture of a Soviet spy in Israel?

[Martirosov] Both.

[Granot] Do you think that someone may have deliberately arranged the reports in such a way in order to affect your stay here?

[Martirosov] I would like to hope that no one wanted to harm us. Yet I ask myself: Why? Why, actually, all the front-page headlines in all the newspapers about "a Soviet spy"? As a journalist, how would you feel if despite the fact that everything is burning in the territories and the situation there is so volatile, a Soviet spy suddenly became the most interesting and important issue?

[Granot] But spying is a serious matter. Did you ever get the chance to meet Kalmanovich?

[Martirosov] Not yet.

That was when Martirosov first allowed himself to smile. But a split-second later he frowned again, adding quietly:

"Let me tell you something: We were astonished by the television broadcast. At the same time, we have already grown accustomed to such stories. Wherever slogans like 'Soviets, go home!' are chanted and rumors alleging that 'the arm of Red Moscow reaches everywhere' are spread, no matter where this happens, it merely serves those elements who want to prevent or undermine the development of normal ties with the Soviet Union. You will agree with me that this is not exactly conducive to thawing relations."

[Granot] But perhaps the actual capture of a spy has a detrimental effect on the improvement of relations. Take, for example, the effect the Pollard affair had on relations with the United States.

Dr Martirosov hurriedly rejected the comparison. "As far as Pollard is concerned, it was proved that he spied for Israel. In Kalmanovich's case, you have no evidence of that."

The Soviet diplomats' visas were extended 2 days ago. They brought over a replacement to serve as delegation head, and at the same time appealed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem seeking an indefinite extension of their visas.

Senior officials in Jerusalem regard these two signs as a good omen: signals from the Kremlin on the intention of staying here permanently.

If there is a certain political message in the request to extend the permit to stay in Israel indefinitely, Dr Martirosov will not confirm it. The only explanation he offers is the "unusually heavy workload" shouldered by the eight-member Soviet team: "We explained to the Foreign Ministry that there is so much work that we cannot predict exactly when we will finish it. There is a lot of bureaucratic work."

Israel expects a positive reply from Moscow to its request for an Israeli delegation to visit the Soviet Union.

[Granot] What are the chances for this?

[Martirosov] We told the Israelis that Moscow is reviewing the request. They asked: Is this serious? And we smiled to ourselves. The Israelis should realize that right now, in the age of perestroyka, it must be "serious."

[Granot] Does this mean yes or no?

Martirosov is extremely cautious: "It means yes or no."

And yet when he explains that "if an Israeli delegation ultimately does leave for Moscow it will not be on the basis of reciprocity," I understand that one can assume that a positive answer will arrive regarding the departure of an Israeli delegation on a different basis.

[Martirosov] You should understand that the principle of reciprocity cannot apply in this case, because our job here is to check the status of the Soviet property in Israel and handle consular affairs pertaining to Soviet citizens. You have no property or Israeli citizens in the Soviet Union.

[Granot] What about the vacant embassy building?

[Martirosov] To the best of my knowledge, that building is rented.

[Granot] So on what basis will the Israelis depart, if they actually do?

[Martirosov] On a different basis: simply to examine the condition of the embassy building and the way the Netherlands Embassy's interest desk team has been representing your diplomatic interests in the Soviet Union. This will be the only possible basis for a positive response.

According to Martirosov, the Soviet delegation's work in Israel also does not cover all the aspects of pure consular activity. "Usually we do not handle requests from Israelis to be allowed to return to the Soviet Union. We

simply advise them to approach the Soviet consulates anywhere in the world, such as Cyprus, Rome or the United States, anywhere—only not in South Africa...."

Now he is smiling, and suddenly recalls: "Wait a minute—not in Chile, either."

[Granot] Are there many Israelis who want to return to the Soviet Union?

Martirosov again demonstrates extreme caution: "There are," divulging no details or figures.

Then, without being specific, he and his assistant, Aleksey Mezlov [name as published], talk about the "rough times" in the course of the delegation's work, when its members are forced to turn away individuals "begging tearfully" for a visa to go back. "We simply weep and our hearts break."

His heart also breaks over the fact that the Israeli press "misrepresents the facts" in reporting that the delegation does not have enough to do. "Ask your Foreign Ministry's Victor Har'el how many appeals and other issues we handle."

He claims that his mandate authorizes him to deal with only two "p's": property and passports. The only thing that has changed during the months that the delegation has spent here is the order of priority. Now its staff deals less with renewing passports than with real estate issues.

All these explanations notwithstanding, Israeli experts attribute a special significance not only to the Soviet delegation's request for an indefinite visa extension, but also to the fact that unlike his predecessor, Dr Martirosov is not a consular-level administrative officer.

He is a Middle East expert who has served in his country's embassy in Egypt and is familiar with the region. As such, he agreed to address several political problems, making sure, nonetheless, to emphasize that he is expressing "his personal views."

Thus, for example, regarding the chance for warmer Israeli-Soviet relations, he said: "I would suggest that people take note of the remarks Gorbachev made when he hosted President Hafiz al-Asad in Moscow—'We consider the absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries to be an anomaly.'"

The conditions for the resumption of relations have not changed: "Only within the framework of a settlement of the Middle East conflict."

If he is asked for his "personal opinion," he will state at once that "there is no better time to resolve the conflict than now, in the age of a dialogue between the superpowers over disarmament and of an inclination to find solutions to regional conflicts." And, yes, that includes the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, too.

The impression is that the Middle East could be the only region left without a solution, and that as far as Martirosov is concerned, the trouble is that the whole world, all the permanent members of the Security Council, all the Arab countries, and the PLO are prepared to find a solution within the framework of an international conference while "you are the only ones who have a problem."

Evidently he does not want to get involved in domestic politics and consequently comes out with this carefully-worded remark: "Shim'on Peres says he is ready for an international conference, but this still does not mean that Israel accepts the idea, does it?"

There are differences of opinion between the potential participants in the conference over its role and authority, but these can be resolved in a preparatory committee. "Furthermore, there are some correspondents who take pains to misrepresent the true Soviet position on the conference by contending that Moscow objects to bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbors." He claims that "the conference offers the opportunity for bilateral as well as multilateral talks" as the circumstances warrant.

Since when do the Soviets insist so strongly on an independent PLO representation? All they want is for the PLO "to be allowed representation in the conference on an equal footing," though not necessarily as a separate entity.

Dr Martirosov is nevertheless ready to set Israel's mind at ease by telling it that the Soviet Union has no intention of forcing a solution on the parties should a conflict arise. "Give me one example in which we forced upon one of the parties a solution not to its liking. Moreover, we have never demanded the right of veto in such conferences. All the parties are sovereign. To force a solution? That is absurd."

Besides, "in 1974 the Israelis sat next to the Soviets in the Geneva Convention. Did anyone make that conditional upon first establishing ties with the Soviet Union? And did Moscow make any attempt to force a solution?" Also, the way the convention ended, namely with a separate arrangement between Israel and Egypt that ultimately culminated in the Camp David Accords, should show the Israelis that "they have nothing to be afraid of."

Regarding the flare-up in the territories, Martirosov said that what is happening there proves that "a political solution is essential. The state of conquest cannot last. People are killed every day." He will offer nothing regarding the nature of the solution desirable to the Soviet Union beyond reiterating that the state of conquest must end.

"Let us pray for different headlines," I suggested. "No more fire in the territories. No more spies."

He corrected me: "No more **stories about** [last two words in boldface as published] spies...."

Yosef Begun Leaves USSR, Arrives 20 Jan

TA200557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Former prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun arrived in Israel last night, ending a 16-year struggle to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Begun, who served 2 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps, came to Israel with his wife and her mother, his son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Shortly after midnight Yosef Begun, waving and smiling and carrying his baby grandson Ninotchka in his arms, stepped off a plane from Bucharest. He was met on the airport tarmac by Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur. The red beret on his head was replaced by a bright blue kipa [skullcap], and Begun was swept into a press conference with dozens of reporters, photographers, and well-wishers. He described how his bond to Israel was never severed, even in Soviet prisons and labor camps. He felt lucky, he said, but also sad for the millions of Jews remaining in the Soviet Union, and he conveyed a message on their behalf.

[Begun] I send such a message from different Jews that told me the same in different words: Don't forget. Old and young, refuseniks and those who prepared to stay in the Soviet Union, said the same words. And there is a lot of Jews that have no right according to the new Soviet law, can't even apply for exit visa. Don't forget that Russian Jews continue to be the Jews of silence. They need your help.

[Chartrand] Begun kissed the blue plastic Israeli identity card giving him by Minister Tzur, who welcomed him saying: At this moment, you are home. The former refusenik was toasted with wine by Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, and a representative from Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikha'el near Caesarea invited Begun to build a new life on the settlement. As he left the airport, he was enveloped by several hundred singing and dancing supporters, who hoisted him on their shoulders. Yosef Begun will visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem today and meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. [end recording]

Court Extends Kalmanovich Detention 8 Days

TA171444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The detention of Shabtay Kalmanovich, who is suspected of spying, was extended this afternoon in a Petah Tiqwa court for another 8 days. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that the head of the Police Serious Crimes Department said that in view of developments in the investigation there is a chance that the charge sheet will be presented against Kalmanovich within this timeframe. It appears that following the presentation of the charge sheet, the police will request Kalmanovich's detention until proceedings are completed.

Romanian Foreign Minister Cancels Visit

TA201149 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Romania's foreign minister has canceled his visit to Israel, which was to have taken place next week. The Foreign Ministry told our political correspondent that the reason for the cancellation is probably the situation in the territories. The Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to comment officially on this report.

Beilin Says U.S. Views Mideast as 'Priority'

TA200809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The U.S. Administration is continuing to express deep concern about events in the territories. It is considering, among other things, sending a special envoy to the Middle East in order to examine the possibilities of renewing the peace process in the region. This emerges from talks held in Washington yesterday by Dr Yosi Beilin, the political director general of the Foreign Ministry. Beilin met with the national security adviser in the White House and Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy, among others. Our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer filed this report from Washington a short while ago:

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] At the end of a marathon of talks with everyone involved in Middle East issues in the U.S. Administration, I wanted to hear from Yosi Beilin about the main message emerging from what he had heard.

[Beilin] I heard of the desire to see an end to this matter [of unrest in the territories] as quickly as possible. There were many questions concerning the technical aspects of our handling of the situation. At the same time, my interlocutors said they understand that we are making an effort to put an end to this, and that there are not too many other ways of handling these incidents. Furthermore, as far as the U.S. Administration is concerned, the assessment is that the Middle East issue has again become a priority issue for the United States after having been ignored in recent months, and that the U.S. Administration will find one way or another of renewing its involvement in the region, following almost a year of no practical involvement.

[Schiffer] As for the Soviets, there is no talk between Israeli and U.S. representatives which does not touch on the issue of Soviet involvement.

[Beilin] Up to this very moment, U.S. Administration officials are not exactly clear about the Soviet stance. This may be one of the issues which will be raised in the monthly discussions to be held between George Shultz and Eduard Shevardnadze until the summit takes place in the spring of 1988.

[Schiffer] Thus, there are many questions and unclear points without answers for the meantime. [end recording]

Holocaust Survivors Protest at U.S. Embassy

TA201012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] A group of Holocaust survivors demonstrated opposite the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv today. They protested the fact that the U.S. ambassador in Austria is submitting his credentials to President Waldheim today.

3 'Terrorists' Killed Trying To Infiltrate

TA200610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed when an IDF force clashed with a terrorist squad which tried to infiltrate into Israeli territory south of Ramim. An IDF soldier was wounded in the clash.

The IDF spokesman announced that after midnight, an IDF unit patrolling along the border fence detected a terrorist squad which was trying to enter Israel south of Kibbutz Ramim. The force opened fire at the squad while advancing toward it, and the terrorists were killed. An IDF soldier was wounded in the exchanges of fire with the terrorists and was evacuated to the hospital. The terrorists were found in possession of personal arms, LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles, and explosives. The squad was on its way to perpetrate a terrorist act inside Israel.

Rubin Comments on Clash

TA200909 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Mikha'el Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. An attempt by terrorists to infiltrate our territory was thwarted at the northern border fence near Kibbutz Ramim last night. Would you say that a major disaster was prevented?

[Rabin] There is no doubt that the PLO terrorist organizations, whose slogans and deeds have always revolved around terror, around guns and grenades, are not satisfied with violent disturbances in the territories alone. They have not given up, are not giving up, nor is there a chance they will give up terrorism as a key tool for the achievement of their political goal. The IDF, therefore, is well deployed along the Lebanese border, and there is no doubt that the mission of those members of the PLO terrorist organizations who tried to enter the Galilee with the aim of carrying out a murderous attack was thwarted thanks only to the alertness of the Northern Command forces.

[Friedman] Has the initial debriefing already indicated the identity of the organization involved? Has it also indicated the precise target of the attack?

[Rabin] At this stage, as long as the investigation has not been completed and as long as all details have not been checked out, I prefer not to say anything beyond what I have just said—namely, that a PLO terrorist organization that aimed at carrying out a murderous terrorist attack on a target inside Israel was involved in this attempt.

[Dayan] It is already known from the debriefing or the report that has been aired that the entire squad which tried to infiltrate Israeli territory was liquidated by the IDF soldiers.

[Rabin] True.

[Dayan] Would you say that a great deal of satisfaction can be expressed about the manner in which the soldiers acted?

[Rabin] I have no doubt that the Northern Command forces, as I earlier said, proved alertness as well as determination and success in implementing their task of liquidating the squad. A soldier was wounded in this operation. Let us hope he will recover soon.

[Friedman] The squad was liquidated south of Kibbutz Ramim where your sister, Rahel, lives. Do you fear for her well-being when you hear a report of this sort?

[Rabin] I rely on the Northern Command forces as far as the entire Galilee population is concerned.

[Friedman] With your permission, sir, let us move on to the other burning issue on the agenda: the situation in the territories. Last week you estimated that the riots would last weeks, and perhaps even months. Today I read a different assessment by you: Calm will be achieved within days or a few weeks. What caused this change in your assessment of the situation?

[Rabin] Look, I said that restoring calm to the territories by implementing those means used by the security forces, the IDF, the Border Police, and the other security branches is a process. When I talk of calm I am not only referring to overcoming a first or a second wave of unrest. By calm I mean reaching a situation in which there are no eruptions such as that which we have witnessed with regard to the second wave, which lasted a little over a week.

[Dayan] In this context, are you referring to the past 3 days, during which we have witnessed relative calm, as an accidental half week or, perhaps, an indication of the beginning of the end of the riots?

[Rabin] I am not dealing with prophecies. The point is to define the goal to ourselves. The goal is to establish calm. The goal is to prove that nothing will be achieved through violence, and to make it clear that responsibility for control over the territories lies with the State of Israel and that whoever wants a basic solution to the problem will not achieve it through violence but through political negotiations.

[Friedman] One of the deportees yesterday called for the killing of the three Israeli POW's held in Lebanon if Israel does not stop what he termed the oppression in the territories. Are you afraid of such a linkage [last word in English]?

[Rabin] As is known, our kidnapped soldiers are not held by Palestinian terrorist organizations. One is held by Amal and the other two by Hizballah. I am confident that the considerations of these organizations will not be influenced by the madmen of the PLO terrorist organizations.

[Dayan] In this context, Mr Rabin, there has been talk lately that Israel might have been somewhat mistaken in its policy in the Gaza Strip in recent years, in somewhat encouraging the Islamic Jihad forces on the assumption that they might detract from Fatah's power in this region. Have we been proven wrong in this?

[Rabin] Whoever thinks that there was a policy of encouraging the Islamic Jihad does not know what he is talking about. The Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip is the most radical body. Over the last 2 years it has perpetrated the greatest number of murderous terrorist acts. Only a few months ago we were involved in a confrontation in which some of its leaders were hurt or, rather, liquidated and many others were detained. Therefore, it would be a mistake to say that the policy was one of encouraging the Islamic Jihad. There are other Islamic elements which we have not encouraged, but when their policy was one of giving preference to religious matters over a confrontation with Israel... [changes thought] We will support any body, regardless of its outlook, that rejects a confrontation with Israel, feeling that the issue should be dealt with in nonviolent ways.

[Friedman] In the course of the latest events, have you perhaps discovered a budding local Palestinian leadership which will want to discuss a future settlement with us?

[Rabin] My statement referred to the future. My impression of what has happened is that we are witnessing the buds of a new leadership, perhaps a more radical one. All I said is that if there is or will be a Palestinian leadership that is prepared to say that it and it alone is the partner, the possible interlocutor, on any issue, that it prefers to solve the problem through negotiations rather than violence, we should encourage and foster such a leadership. I was not referring to those who serve as messengers [last word in English], proxies, or postmen for outside elements.

[Dayan] Can you name people you consider worthwhile for us to encourage—Sari Nusaybah or Hanna Sinyurah, perhaps?

[Rabin] At this stage it is too early. I think there is an upheaval in the social and leadership system in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and it is premature to assess who will emerge as important figures or leaders. This is not a process that will take a single day or 2.

[Friedman] Morris Draper, the U.S. consul in East Jerusalem, yesterday mentioned the names of Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah as potential partners.

[Rabin] To the best of my knowledge, neither one of them—neither in the past, nor surely in the present—has said that he is a partner. The most they said was that they were prepared to pass on the PLO's views to us.

[Friedman] Gaza residents are complaining about a serious shortage of food and clothing in the wake of the prolonged curfew. Yesterday the IDF prevented a supply convoy, organized by Israeli leftist elements, from entering the area. Surely it is not Israeli policy to starve the residents, God forbid, is it?

[Rabin] There is no policy of starving the residents who are under curfew in the camps. When we talk of Gaza we are referring to the refugee camps which have been and continue to be under curfew. We, together with UNRWA and other elements, have arranged clearly defined times for delivering supplies to the camps. The supplies are then sold or distributed in the camps during 1, 2, or more hours, as determined for each camp separately. The curfew is lifted during these breaks, as evidenced by both the foreign and Israeli television broadcasts. Both external PLO-influenced elements and local ones have tried to create the impression of a deliberate Israeli policy of starving the residents, of ignoring the issue of food supplies to the camps, thus turning this into a political issue and harming the image of the State of Israel. As for those who are trying to create a wrong picture and turn it into a crude propaganda tool against the State of Israel, we prevented them from doing so.

[Friedman] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you.

UN's Goulding Interviewed on Visit, Results

TA181214 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan pp 1, 4

[Report on an interview with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding by Benny Morris; place and date not given]

[Text] Marrack Goulding, winding up his controversial eight-day investigation of the situation in the territories, speaks of "the hatred in the eyes, on both sides, in the camps," and of "the 20-year-olds who are facing each other."

Hatred on the part of the Israelis as well? "Well, perhaps not hatred on the Israeli troops' side but 'dislike of the situation,' shall we say," he replies. The UN undersecretary-general for political affairs speaks of foot patrols going by and soldiers and locals "staring at each other. You look at their eyes.... It's very unpleasant."

I ask whether the Palestinian hatred he discerned was "geared" merely to obtaining an Israeli withdrawal from the territories or went beyond that, stretching to a desire to see Israel eliminated? "I was told with consistency by the Palestinians I spoke with that what they want is a Palestinian state in the occupied territories. If Israel withdraws completely and the settlements are taken away, they would live in peace with Israel.

"Yes, I felt that this was being said sincerely, and was not (orchestrated) from (above or outside)."

"The hatred" in Palestinian eyes was what "most impressed" Goulding during his visit.

Did the hatred also encompass the UN? "I'd like to correct a misapprehension. None of the disturbances were directed against me. When I came to a camp, I was surrounded in each by 500 people, each with a personal story to tell me, and there was naturally frustration (that not all could speak)."

Goulding says that only once did he encounter a "problem," triggered by the arrival on the scene in Rafah of an IDF patrol that "grabbed a boy. Then there was (trouble) and tear gas and bullets."

Did the Israeli authorities prevent Goulding from visiting the camps?

Goulding: "When I arrived, Peres and Rabin both said I could go where I pleased and speak to whoever I wanted, but I couldn't go to areas under curfew or areas declared (closed) military areas. So I wasn't able to visit the Jabalyah and Shatti camps. I wish it had been possible to make an exception for me. At the same time, I am not complaining of obstruction. I did not want to make things worse in the camps. In fact, yesterday, in visiting Balatah camp, I took care to go without TV cameras."

No, Goulding did not feel that the prime minister's refusal to meet him was "an insult to the UN. I understand why he didn't wish to see me. I can only wish he had. Discussions with him have been lively and amusing." He mentions his meeting with Shamir during his last visit, when the topic was the proposed international conference on Middle East peace.

Goulding was satisfied with his reception by Foreign Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin. He noted that Peres and the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, had both, "at short notice, agreed to see me a second time."

Goulding's mandate was to carry out the recent Security Council resolution that instructed the secretary-general to investigate the situation in the territories and to submit recommendations that could enhance the safety and well-being of the Arab inhabitants. "It was not my mandate to seek Israeli agreement to (the stationing of) a UN army in the territories. This was a misapprehension, which I cleared up in my talks with Peres and Rabin."

The two ministers, he said, reiterated Israel's formal position—non-acceptance de jure of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs the rules of behaviour of occupying powers in occupied territories, while "maintaining that Israel is carrying out the convention's provisions *de facto*." [preceding words in italics as published]

This is definitely not the case, says Goulding. The Israeli "deportations, collective punishments, demolition of houses, establishment of settlements and other measures are all in violation of the humanitarian (provisions) of the convention. I suggested to them, and Goren, that Israel should apply the convention in full. There is a whole list of violations by Israel," he says.

"I wonder sometimes how widely known among Israelis is the fact that Israel is acting in violation of the convention." He adds: "Israel is regarded, and also by me, as a highly principled country, but here it is contravening humanitarian law."

Goulding refused to be drawn on the type of recommendations he intends to submit to the UN secretary-general upon his return today to New York. But he evinces a clear understanding of their need to be "realistic and productive"—meaning of a type that Israel could agree to and that would not be considered meaningless by the Palestinian population in question. "We have collected a lot of ideas," he says.

Did I detect a note of pessimism? "Of course the camps left me depressed. They would leave anyone who visited them depressed. It is clearly going to be very difficult to negotiate (a solution to the problem)."

Could it be that Israeli society, like other societies recently or currently beset by internal dissidence and revolt, will adjust to the rising level of violence and the daily killing of Palestinian demonstrators? Goulding: I find it difficult to believe that Israel, as a democratic country with all its ideals, could tolerate indefinitely a situation in which it was routinely having to use armed force to suppress unarmed demonstrators."

Goulding clearly feels that the Palestinians will persist in the disturbances "until progress is made towards a settlement. Sure, Israel can use palliatives, use new methods to control the demonstrations, but the underlying basis of the problem (will persist), and it can be cured by the negotiation of a political settlement."

Did Goulding's Israeli interlocutors appear to have been persuaded? "I don't think Peres or Rabin needed persuading of this."

Goulding feels that Israel's image "has suffered as a result of the events, especially in those countries that are most friendly towards Israel." But Goulding feels "it is too soon to judge" whether the disturbances and the Israeli response have caused Israel lasting political damage in the international arena.

Rabin on New 'Operating Methods' in Territories

TA191838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that Israel would not allow violence to recur in the administered territories. The defense minister also said new political arrangements, including local elections in the territories, cannot be implemented until the area is calm. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] Rabin toured many of the trouble spots in the Ramallah area. He first visited the Al-Jalazun refugee camp, where his entourage was struck by several stones. Rabin then made his way past Bi'r Zayt University and then stopped in Ramallah, where he spoke to shopkeepers.

The defense minister told reporters that the violent stage of unrest in the territories appears to have passed. Rabin said maintaining calm in the territories remains Israel's most important task:

[Rabin] First priority to prevent violence in whatever form that it takes, and we'll do it with force, not by our fire. Fire—only when soldiers are attacked. Whoever will dare to attack a soldier or border policeman endangers his life and fire will be shot at him.

[Rodan] Rabin said Israel seeks a political solution in the territories, but at this point there is no one to talk to. As to the possibility of local Palestinian elections, Rabin had this to say:

[Rabin] We would not do anything to change our policy of handling the situation in the territories before tranquility will be reached. Let's distinguish between two problems: an ultimate solution, a political solution can be achieved only by negotiations, while tranquility has to be achieved by the means of the Military Government, using force in a limited way—the way that I have described, without the use of lethal arms, lethal weapons unless there are direct attacks on soldiers. At the same time, to try to encourage people to go to work, to open shops—it might take days, it might take a few weeks. We will show who is running the territories.

[Rodan] Rabin expressed concern over the strike in East Jerusalem, but he said he is leaving that problem to the ministers of police and interior. [end recording]

Rabin repeated at a meeting of Labor Knesset members [MK's] later in the day that the security forces have changed their operating methods in the territories. They now counterattack demonstrators physically, instead of opening fire. The Voice of Israel's Amnon Nadav says that because of this there are fewer casualties on both sides.

A sharp exchange took place during the meeting between Rabin and MK Hayim Ramon after Ramon had compared the authorities' surprise at the recent unrest with the surprise at the outbreak of the Yom Kippur war.

Ex-Nabulus Mayor on Territories PLO Option

TA141630 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 88 p 17

["Monologue" by former Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah, reported by Oren Kohen: "It Will Take Time, But Self-Definition Will Come"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres and the Labor Party members are indeed the only ones who talk of a desire for peace, but their talk is a tactical matter only. Peres and his colleagues in fact want to eliminate Palestinian nationalism, using Jordan for that end. They talk of a peace agreement with Jordan, of talks with Jordan and all kinds of other arrangements, but everything will finally be used against the Palestinians. The fact that so far we have not heard that Peres is prepared to withdraw from the territories under any arrangement shows he is not serious.

It is impossible to solve the problem of the territories today through talks between only Jordan and Israel. Any solution between Israel and Jordan will be exactly like the peace signed between Al-Sadat and Begin. It will be a peace that cannot last for a long time. Israel must talk with us, the Palestinians. The Jordanian option is defunct. We are the only ones who can decide our future. We must examine all the objective circumstances that will come up and aid ourselves.

At the first stage, to obtain quiet in the region Israel must stop the deportations and the heavy-handed policy in the territories. Israel must honor international laws, as well as the Geneva Charter. It must recognize our civilian rights, including our right to lead our lives independently. This is the solution we all seek, and any man or judge anywhere in the world would see our claims as justified. The events which take place today indicate that our efforts yield results, and that Israel should accept the facts in the area and speak with the Palestinians.

If Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin say they cannot find leaders in the territories with whom they can talk, they should perhaps return to us all the leaders they have thus far expelled. When Peres says we have no leadership, I must remind him it was Israel which dismissed Rashad al-Shawwa. This is a man known for his moderation, a leader who has accepted the Camp David Accords and who supports the Jordanian option. Nevertheless, he was dismissed from the Gaza mayoral position.

The other leaders have been deported over the last 20 years, since 1967. Any local leader who asked for the basic rights of the Palestinian people was expelled. Even now there are 12 additional candidates for deportation. What kind of leadership are they seeking under these conditions? If Peres and Rabin want to talk with us, we have our leaders and representatives. It is the PLO which represents all the Palestinians, and the final solution will be achieved only through negotiations with the united Palestinian leadership, not only here in the territories.

If the Israeli leadership indeed believes that there is no relation between events here and the PLO's world leadership, the problem will then become more difficult. The Israeli rulers have stopped seeing and understanding simple facts that any blind, deaf, or dumb man would have understood. They have thus lost touch with reality, as well as losing their ability to lead their people. The Israeli Government is mistaken if it thinks that there is no leadership in the territories today, that the PLO and 'Arafat have lost their status and leadership in the territories, and that all riots are locally initiated. The Palestinians are a single people, and the PLO is their representative. We have Abu 'Ammar, Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO president, and it is not only the United Nations but also most of the people in Israel that have already recognized this fact. It is only the leadership that overlooks this important fact.

It is impossible to predict exactly what will happen in the future, but I can say what I think is bound to happen. The Palestinians will have a state, and they will ultimately gain self-determination. It is not yet clear how this self-determination will come about. Israel is using cold-blooded terroristic measures against the Palestinians, usurping lands and sources of water, and controlling our electricity. Deportations are also not useful.

Despite the killing, our condition today is better than our condition in the past. The Palestinians are moving ahead, while the Israeli Government is falling back. I do not know when a Palestinian state will be set up. This may take place in our time or in our children's time. This makes no difference to me. Even after I die this matter will have prime mental importance for me. This is my liberty, this is my future, and even if I do not live to see it, this is the truth.

More on Events, Disturbances in Territories

Communique on Temple Mount

TA191625 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE
in English 17 Jan 88

["Cabinet Communique—Communicated by the Cabinet Secretariat"—GPO headline]

[Excerpt] At the weekly Cabinet meeting today:

A. Within the framework of a ministerial defense committee, the ministers of defense and police briefed the Cabinet on the situation in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and the incidents in Jerusalem. The Cabinet expressed its esteem and support for the actions by the security forces and Israel Police, notwithstanding its internal disputes on topics related to the political process.

B. 1. In reference to the incidents which took place last Friday on the Temple Mount, the Cabinet stressed that the IDF and the Israel Police do not as a rule enter mosques. Such was the case this past Friday and will be the practice in the future as well. No act was carried out which could be construed as being offensive to the sanctity of the mosques.

2. The report alleging that tear gas grenades were fired into the mosques is totally unfounded. After the majority of the worshippers had concluded praying, several hundred incited youth organized themselves for a demonstration and the burning of flags. It was only against them, and outside the mosques, that tear gas was used. The riot included a severe incident in which a group of rioters attacked a policeman and injuring him severely dragged him by force into a mosque. This was intolerable behavior, offensive to the very character of holy places. The policeman defended himself and saved his life. The persons responsible for this severe offense will be brought to trial.

3. As mentioned previously as it has practised till now, the Cabinet will continue its policy of respecting the holy places of all faiths, and of not offending their sanctity. [passage omitted]

Suspect, 11 Arabs Detained

TA200729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Eleven suspects were picked up in East Jerusalem in connection with the recent riots. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the detainees include an Old City resident who is suspected of having been one of those who beat the border policeman on the Temple Mount last Friday.

Food Convoy Denied Entry

TA191633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces have prevented the entry into the Gaza Strip of the four trucks carrying food from Israel.

The defense minister said at noon today that Israel would not permit the dispatch of either food or clothes to the territories.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that curfews in the seven refugee camps in the Gaza Strip were lifted several times since noon today, so as to enable the residents to stock up on food.

The IDF allows food convoys sent by UNRWA to enter the camps.

20 Jan Update on Curfews

TA200736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, has instructed that workers from the Rafah area and the Dayr al-Balah camp be permitted to leave for Israel as of this morning. Major General Mordekhay has also instructed that the curfew there be eased, and that breaks necessary for the residents to stock up on food be prolonged. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that six refugee camps in the Gaza Strip remain under curfew today.

As for Samaria, the curfew on the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus was lifted last night, and only Salfit is under curfew at the moment. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 20 January reports that "a curfew was imposed this morning on the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus following riots. In addition, the curfew is continuing on the village of Salfit and the old 'Askar refugee camp."]

'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, notes that despite the call for a general strike by the radical bodies in the territories, most shops in Judaea and Samaria were open yesterday. In an interview with our correspondent Arye Gus, Maj Gen Mitzna' emphasized that the IDF will continue to maintain order and enable those who want to return to normal life to do so.

Commentary Views Policy Failure in Territories

TA141503 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Jan 88 p 16

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "There Was an Option"]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy in the territories blocked every political option and led Israel down a blind alley. The road from that position to the recent disturbances was short and dangerous. It is possible that Rabin's intentions were good, but his assumptions were mistaken. There were, after all, demonstrations and disturbances in the territories even during periods in which Israel was implementing a different, opposite policy. Rabin is not to be blamed for the result, but he is to blame for the process leading to it.

The previous serious outbreak in the territories took place approximately 10 years ago, during the days of the National Guidance Committee. The prolonged commercial strike organized by the committee was accompanied by very violent demonstrations, despite the fact that then Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman embraced a clearly pro-Palestinian policy, contrary to the anti-Palestinian orientation of the present defense minister.

Rabin based his policy in the territories on Jordan, trying to pave the way for the return of Husayn to the territories. The defense establishment acted in two directions, one positive and one negative. On the one hand Jordan's supporters received every possible encouragement. Israel has done everything possible to put them in positions of political power. The best example for this are the municipalities in the territories. The decision—which was in principle correct—to replace the military officers who until approximately 2 years ago acted as mayors with Arab mayors, was accompanied by the mistake of Jordan and Israel electing unknown personages. The only requirement for these candidates was that they be acceptable by Jordan.

Israel and Jordan should have supported pro-PLO figures who would be more acceptable to the populace and more pragmatic. Jordan chose unknown personages with the object of avoiding a serious confrontation with the PLO in the territories. From Israel's point of view the result was bad. The municipalities lost their prominent political position as a nucleus for the consolidation of a local Palestinian leadership, and contrary to previous periods of unrest they played no role, positive or negative, in the present unrest.

Rabin's mistake was even more serious in the implementation of the negative aspect of his policy: steamrolling the PLO supporters and their institutions in order to pave the way for King Husayn. It is obvious that Husayn will not take the territories under his auspices as long as

Palestinian nationalism is blossoming there. This idea is expressed through the established press, the universities, public institutions, and other organizations with a clearly Palestinian identity.

The support given to Jordan's supporters on the one hand and the repression of the PLO supporters on the other caused feelings of frustration and anger among the inhabitants of the territories. Moreover, these policies had a very negative result from the political point of view. They destroyed the delicate texture of a new political group which had started consolidating in the territories and which showed a great potential for a future political dialogue with Israel. This group was the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue group, which included notables from both the Jordanian and PLO camps and which started operating under the auspices of the Husayn-'Arafat dialogue and was supported by the Joint Jordanian-PLO Committee. The meetings of this group were attended, among others, by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, a Jordanian supporter; Hanna Sinyurah, who represented the PLO supporters; and Hikmat al-Masri, who represented the aristocratic families in the territories.

Had Israel encouraged the activities of this group, instead of supporting the pro-Jordanian mayors whose names are unknown to this day, we might be facing a completely different political situation in the territories today. Such an Israeli decision would have supported the Husayn-'Arafat dialogue instead of trying to deepen the rift between them. As a result of this effort, rather than the supporters of Jordan taking the political center stage, extremist, divided groups lacking a consolidated leadership have assumed primacy. This is especially true for the Gaza Strip, where the zealous Muslim element is particularly strong.

Israel's mistaken policy in the territories was sharply outlined in the developments in East Jerusalem. In order to understand why East Jerusalem has now awakened, it is necessary to understand why it did not participate in the demonstrations during previous periods of unrest in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Until now the PLO was interested in keeping Jerusalem out of the struggle in the territories. This has now changed.

Until the 6-Day War, Israel and Jordan had a common interest. Both wanted to cancel the UN decision regarding the internationalization of Jerusalem. Israel chose Jerusalem as its capital and Jordan annexed East Jerusalem. This cooperation ended after the war, when Israel united both parts of the city. Jordan launched a fierce struggle against Israel and ordered its people not to cooperate with Israel in Jerusalem. The boycott was broken mainly by the East Jerusalem Electricity Company which agreed to serve Jewish customers in the areas under its concession, including in the settlements, and even put representatives of the Jerusalem municipality in its board of directors. If it had been up to Jordan, it would have put an end to the Arab company back in 1968. It was the PLO, however, which rushed to the company's aid.

If we understand why the PLO supported the Arab company we will also understand why the quiet has been preserved hitherto and why it has now been disrupted. In the struggle between Jordan and Israel over the unity of Jerusalem, the PLO has actually, without public statements, supported the Israeli position. When the PLO has to choose between Israel and Jordan it does not necessarily choose Jordan, apparently. The PLO has weighty considerations in favor of Israel. The Israeli democracy has in affect protected the nationalist institutions established by the PLO in East Jerusalem. There was a silent agreement between the PLO and Israel that the PLO would leave Jerusalem out of the storm in the territories, and in exchange Israel would not harm the Palestinian press in Jerusalem and the nationalist institutions in the city.

The arrangement reached between Israel and Jordan regarding the East Jerusalem Electricity Company approximately 2 months ago and the policy of attacking the Palestinian press and Palestinian activists in East Jerusalem served as a warning sign for the PLO. The heads of the organization have come to understand that this is the beginning of a new period. In this period Israel is ready to make concessions to Jordan on the issue of Jerusalem's unity and would be willing to cooperate with it in ruling over the Arab parts of the city.

Minister Ari'el Sharon's statement that Peres and Husayn have reached an agreement on the redivision of Jerusalem also expresses the feelings of Palestinian circles. Sharon directed his remarks at Peres, but he should remember that Likud head Shamir also takes a pro-Jordanian policy, and that he too is a partner.

The demonstrations in Jerusalem are not directed only against Israel. On the contrary, apparently the new wave of unrest in the city is mainly a signal to Amman that as long as there is no political solution the East Jerusalem Palestinians prefer to remain under the auspices of Israeli democracy, not under the oppressive wings of King Husayn. According to this point of view, from the interim period until a political arrangement is made, Israeli democracy is the main security means for preserving the unity of Jerusalem and the calm in the city, rather than the iron fist policy.

In the last Alignment Knesset faction session Minister Rabin said that in everything which has to do with a political settlement in the territories "Jordan has procrastinated, and when the tempers calm down we will speak with the young Palestinian generation." Such a statement and others similar to it indicate that Rabin has learned the lessons, mainly in sobering up from the Jordanian option. Hopefully he will translate these lessons into action.

Information Offered on Palme Assassination

NC192244 Paris AFP in English 2234 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 19 (AFP)—A clandestine organisation said here Tuesday it had information that could lead to the arrest of the killer of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The hitherto unknown Arab Revolutionary Organisation said it would provide the information to Swedish authorities if they agreed to give half of their announced reward for the arrest of the assassin to "militants" in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The group demanded that the other half of the roughly eight million dollar reward be placed in Lebanese bank accounts.

Mr Palme was shot and killed in March 1986 by an unidentified assailant in Stockholm.

The communique, written in Arabic and made available to a Western news agency here, also demanded that the Swedish Government grant entry to Sweden for 15 Lebanese families.

Investigators in Stockholm have sought the assassin of Mr Palme in Kurdish and Iranian circles but have failed to identify the killer.

Iranian Guards Reportedly Hold Waite, Others

NC200811 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Citing REUTER, news agencies have reported that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and about 23 other foreign hostages in Lebanon are now in the hands of the Iranian Revolution Guards, who received the hostages from the pro-Iranian organizations 3 weeks ago.

Citing security sources, REUTER said that Iran has decided to stop all bargaining, that it believes the hostage issue only concerns Iran, and that all negotiations on the hostages should be conducted through Iran alone.

2 Men Linked to Ja'ja' Murder Attempt Executed

NC191222 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Samir Ja'ja'-led Lebanese Forces militias killed Samir Zaynun and Ghassan Lahhud yesterday, having accused them of planning to assassinate Ja'ja' and his deputy, Karim Paqraduni. According to security sources, the two men were executed yesterday at the Lebanese Forces barracks in Al-Dubbiyah and their bodies were handed over to their families. It is worth noting that Zaynun was the former Lebanese Forces official in the north.

The executions have cast a gloomy cloud over the fate of 26 other Lebanese Forces members who were detained by the same militias on 21 November 1987 on charges of conspiring to assassinate their leaders.

General Staff Issues Statement

NC191727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the General Staff of the Lebanese Forces on 19 January—place not given]

[Text] On 6 January 1988 a field court passed death sentences on Samir Zaynun and Ghassan Lahhud, two Lebanese Forces members, who admitted and confessed to the crimes of high treason, sabotage, penetrating military fronts, and preparing for assassination attempts. The death sentences were carried out on the morning of 18 January in accordance with the rules laid down in the military penal code adopted by the Lebanese Forces.

Shi'ite Leader Issues Ban on Working in Israel

NC181628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has banned workers from undertaking employment in Israel in place of the striking Palestinian workers. If they were to do so, he said, they would be bolstering the Israeli enemy's economy and forsaking the glorious uprising. He stated that engaging in such work amounts to breaking one of the greatest taboos.

Al-Huss Views U.S. Security Council Veto

NC191106 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Responding to a question on his opinion of the U.S. position toward the Lebanese complaint in the UN Security Council, acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said today: The Security Council's resolution explicitly confirms the Lebanese right and condemns Israel's acts of aggression. The U.S. veto of this resolution actually changes nothing. The U.S. veto, in our view, condemns the U.S. position.

While we thank the states which supported our complaint, including the nonaligned states, France, the FRG, Italy, and Japan, we regret the negative stand taken by the United States. We regret the fact that this superpower, which claims to defend human rights, has insisted on equating the aggressor with the victim and has submitted to Zionist extortion, voting against the rights of man in his land at the highest international forum.

Junblatt, Hawi Begin Visit to Moscow 18 Jan
NC181905 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Local events, expected developments, and future prospects are being discussed in influential regional and international capitals. Nationalist leaders discuss such developments with Syrian officials in Damascus from time to time. In Moscow, these developments will be the focus of discussion and evaluation during the visit of PSP leader Walid Junblatt and George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, which began in the Soviet capital today. Two party delegations are accompanying them on this visit, which comes in response to a joint invitation extended to them by the CPSU Central Committee.

Fadlallah on Importance of Iranian Experience
LD191012 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 19, IRNA—Sa'id Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said here Monday that Imam Khomeyni's leadership has been crucial to the triumph of the Islamic revolution and to its world campaign against injustice and dictatorship.

Speaking at a gathering of Muslim students on the occasion of the approaching anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Fadlallah said the Iranian experience is one of the most important Islamic achievements.

The Iranian revolution, he added, proves that an Islamic movement can materialize the wishes of a nation and disprove the myth of the invulnerability of the big powers of the world.

A principal peculiarity of the Iranian revolution, he said, is its foundation on the basis of the Islamic faith, and its commitment to a universal struggle against injustice and oppression.

On the Iraqi-imposed war he said that Iranians thwarted this plot as well as they had neutralized other plots, and added that the conspiracies of aggressors against the Islamic Republic have now backfired on themselves.

9 February Group Claims Killing of 2 Syrians
NC191109 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device in a Syrian position at the Luqman School on the northern approach to Tripoli, which killed two Syrian soldiers and wounded a number of others.

Further on Attack, 'Execution'
NC200915 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has declared that one of its groups has attacked a position and roadblock of the Syrian occupation forces at the Dayr 'Ammar junction in the north. During the attack, the group used RPG's and machineguns, burning a military land rover and wounding some Syrian occupation soldiers.

The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit has also claimed responsibility for the execution of Lieutenant Ziyad Hamdan of the Syrian occupation forces in the Al-Shari' al-Jadid area of Al-Qubbah in Tripoli 2 days ago.

Resistance Group Attacks 'Enemy' Patrol
NC191359 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Resistance fighters detonated explosive charges on the Anan-Rum road this morning. A military spokesman for the PFLP commented on the operation by saying:

At 0630 today the Metulla Martyrs Group of the National Resistance Front planted several explosive charges on the military road between Anan and Rum. The charges were detonated by remote control while an enemy and agent patrol comprising an M-113 personnel carrier and a jeep was passing. Both vehicles were hit in the explosion and immediately caught fire. It is estimated that seven of the patrol personnel were either killed or wounded in the attack.

The military spokesman added that the enemy positions started firing at random in all directions after the operation and combed the area in the hopes of blocking the escape route of the resistance group, which nonetheless returned safely to base.

Israeli Aircraft Overflights Reported
NC200956 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] According to security sources, six Israeli warplanes flew at medium altitude over Al-Damur, 'Alayh, Khaldah, and the airport vicinity this morning, drawing antiaircraft ground fire. The sound of explosions was heard in Beirut.

Swedish Minister Arrives, Meets With Birri
NC191124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Swedish defense minister arrived in Beirut this morning. Accompanied by the Swedish ambassador to Lebanon and a delegation of senior officers, he held a 45-minute meeting with Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement. After the meeting, which was held

at Birri's private residence, the Swedish minister explained that the purpose of his visit is to acquaint himself with the situation in Lebanon and to inspect the Swedish UN contingent in the south. He then went to the residence of acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Iddih Urges U.S. To Put Pressure on Israel

PM181550 Milan L'UNITA in Italian
11 Jan 88 p 2

[Interview with Lebanese National Bloc Chairman Raymond Iddih by Alceste Santini in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Santini] If you are elected president, what will you do to resolve the difficult Lebanese problem?

[Iddih] I set two conditions for my candidacy: 1—If I am elected, Parliament must allow me to remain in Paris temporarily; 2—In the meantime I will visit the five major countries, the UN Security Council members. I will visit France, Britain, the USSR, China, and the United States. However, I will also visit the Italian authorities because Italy sent its troops to Lebanon in 1982, and I will visit the Vatican.

[Santini] What will you ask these countries' leaders, with whom you believe you should meet if elected president, before returning to Beirut to take over your new post?

[Iddih] I will ask all these states whether Europe is determined, as the USSR and China are, to implement Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 of 1978 and Resolution 509 approved by the Security Council and Italy in 1982. These three resolutions demand the withdrawal of Israel, the Israeli troops, from south Lebanon to enable the blue helmets—to which Italy contributes a helicopter squadron—to cover the whole of the Lebanese-Israeli border, all but approximately 15 km of which they already cover. In fact it must be said that despite the blue helmets' presence along the Lebanese-Israeli border, there is an area occupied by the Israeli Army and General Lahad's militiamen. It must also be stressed that the blue helmets are on Lebanese territory, inasmuch as Israel refused to have them on its own territory. It is clear that since 1978 Israel has refused to implement the resolutions passed by the five major Security Council member countries.

[Santini] So you would like, first, to emphasize to the world public the position of the countries that can determine Lebanon's future, before returning as president of the Republic.

[Iddih] Yes. I would like to see, first, whether the five major countries and Italy want to maintain the existence of this small democratic Lebanon—which has never waged war on Israel, neither in 1967 nor in 1973—no longer divided into minor states: one Maronite, one Druze, one Sunni Muslim, one Shi'ite Muslim. After paying these visits in my capacity as elected president, I would like to visit the United States.

[Santini] Why do you believe that only the United States can make a decisive contribution to resolving the tragic situation in Lebanon?

[Iddih] You see, as far as the Middle East is concerned, the American administration is influenced by the Zionist lobby, which opposes the Israeli Army's withdrawal from Lebanon. I would ask the U.S. authorities whether they were willing to implement the resolutions that America itself has voted for, because only the Americans can order the Israelis to withdraw. I believe only America can do it.

[Santini] If the United States does what you want and if Israel decides to withdraw, what guarantees could you provide in exchange, as Lebanon's elected president?

[Iddih] If Israel did withdraw and the blue helmets did cover the whole of the Lebanese-Israeli border, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Lebanese-Israeli Armistice Convention—which is still in force and defines what situation should exist on both sides of the border—and if the United States agreed that the Israeli Army must withdraw, I, as elected president, would provide any guarantees that the American administration asked from me concerning Israel. Lebanese-Israeli relations must still be based on the 1949 Armistice Convention.

[Santini] What role could Europe perform in this whole complex affair, especially if the United States refused to grant your request?

[Iddih] If the United States refused to order Israel to withdraw, Europe could take measures to force Israel to do so. There is a precedent. In April 1982 Europe boycotted Argentina to force it to withdraw from the Falkland Islands. Then it was the Europe of the Nine, but now there is the Europe of the Twelve. However, if neither Europe nor America find a solution for Israel's withdrawal from all the illegally occupied territory of south Lebanon, I would resign before returning to Beirut to be constitutionally sworn in and assume my post.

[Santini] How can the Vatican facilitate a solution in Lebanon?

[Iddih] The Vatican can ask the 59 million Catholics living in the United States to exert pressure on the American authorities against the "Zionist lobby" and against the Jews, of whom there are approximately 6 million. At present Lebanon is divided into small states, as I have already said. Over 500,000 Lebanese have left the country, most of them Christians. The Catholic Church wants to keep Lebanon united, as it has always said. Israel has always wanted Lebanon to be partitioned ever since 1954, following the meeting between Ben

Gurion and Moshe Dayan, the proceedings of which are described in Moshe Sharat's memoirs. So the Vatican can, and in fact must, save Lebanon's Christians from the plans for partitioning and war supported by the extreme Right because, by saving them, it is saving all the Christians of the East. However, if the war, which has lasted for 13 years, continues, and if the Vatican continues to ignore Lebanon, there will be no more Christians in the East because those who have the means are going to France (where there are already 80,000 of them), Australia (200,000), and Canada (250,000). The Vatican can do a great deal.

[Santini] Perhaps the time is ripe to secure observance of the UN's decisions.

[Iddih] You see, the United States appeals to international law over Afghanistan and calls on the USSR to withdraw. Very well. But why does the United States not call on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions that it has itself signed? Instead the American budget allocates for this year $3 billion in aid for Israel, most of it in the form of gifts. So America can persuade Israel to observe international law. But Europe, Italy, and the Vatican can also do a great deal. [passage omitted]

FRG's Genscher Gives Press Statement on Visit

JN161936 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher gave a press statement shortly before his departure from Damascus today at the end of his 2-day visit to Syria.

Genscher characterized his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials as valuable and useful. They dealt with bilateral relations, particularly economic ties, and how to further them, said the FRG minister. He noted that the FRG economic cooperation minister will visit Damascus next March for economic talks.

Genscher thanked President al-Asad for his efforts to obtain freedom for the FRG hostage Schmidt. Genscher added that he had asked the president to pursue efforts to secure the release of the second German hostage. Syria's efforts in this regard, affirmed the German minister, speak for Syria's responsible stand toward the FRG and various world issues.

Genscher said the EC was concerned over developments concerning occupied Arab land. He recalled that this European concern was expressed in December 1987 and January 1988, reflecting the position of the present European members of the UN Security Council, including the FRG.

His talks with Syrian officials ranged across various world issues and the Mideast problem, Genscher said. Both sides, he noted, are agreed on the need to resolve the Mideast problem and recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination within the framework of an international peace conference.

His talks, Genscher added, also touched on the Lebanese situation. He was interested in hearing Syria's assessment of the situation there and the prospects for solving Lebanon's crisis to ensure its independence and sovereignty as well as peaceful cohabitation among all Lebanese.

Genscher went on to say that his talks in Damascus covered the Gulf war and the prospects of ending the conflict. He said that Syria and the FRG agree on the need to avert an expansion of the war and for cooperation among all members of the UN Security Council to end it. Transferring the East-West conflict to the Gulf war will further complicate the situation, the FRG minister asserted.

Genscher said that Syria and the FRG have agreed to make every effort to fight terrorism. Concluding his press statement, Genscher thanked Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Damascus.

Leaves Damascus 16 Jan

JN161651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher left Damascus this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Syria.

On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Syrian Ambassador to Bonn Sulayman Haddad; Hisham Kahhalah, Western Europe Department head at the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Hasib al-Ustuwani, protocol chief at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, Information Department head at the Foreign Ministry, as well as the FRG anibassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Gulf War Mediation 'Facing Stumbling Blocks'

NC181828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to diplomatic information received in Beirut from the Gulf, Syrian efforts to halt the Iraq-Iran war are facing stumbling blocks.

The same sources add that the Syrian move, undertaken in implementation of an agreement reached at the Amman summit, had almost succeeded in arranging a Gulf-Iranian meeting in either Oman or Damascus, but for reasons unknown the meeting, which was to have taken place the 2d week of January, was impeded.

The information states that Syria has persuaded Iran not to use Silkworm missiles against Kuwait, to stop its attacks on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, and to discontinue its plans for a major offensive against Basra. However, political and military observers have noted that the resumption of Iraqi and Iranian attacks shows that the Syrian mediation has been ineffective.

Efforts Depend on EC Attitude

LD161236 Hamburg DPA in German 1145 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus (DPA)—Syria is still willing to mediate in the Gulf war, but would like EC recognition and a resumption of economic aid in return. Syrian Government circles stated on Friday that Syria strongly condemns all terrorism and for that reason regards sanctions as a penalizing act.

Syria relies on Iran's "firm assertions" that it is trying to dampen the Gulf war. Information Minister Muhammad Salman, a member of President Hafiz al-Asad's innermost circle of advisors, told DPA.

The minister said that his government has been receiving assurances from Tehran since December that it will neither attack the interests of the Gulf states nor continue the offensive on Iraq's southern front. Salman sees this restraint as a step in the implementation of the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution.

Salman leveled open criticism against Iraq. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would very much like to spread the war to neighboring Gulf states, said Salman. Damascus regards increasing attacks on the tankers of Gulf states as proof of this.

Other Syrian Government officials said any efforts for mediation by their government depend on the attitude of the EC. Syria will not take part in the hoped-for European-Arab dialogue until the EC lifts its sanctions and resumes economic aid.

On the occasion of the visit to Damascus by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, government officials spoke of return services by Syria if Great Britain gives up its opposition to Syria and gives way on the subject of economic aid.

The staffing levels of the British representation of interests at the Australian Embassy could then be doubled from three diplomats. Full rights would also be restored to British Airways, said the government circles.

Minister Warns of Israeli 'Aggression or War'

JN171528 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has asserted that Syria has endeavored to pool all Arab resources to enhance our nation's steadfastness in the face of the Zionist danger out of a clear strategy. This strategy makes basic and central issues outweigh secondary and transient ones. The minister expressed Syria's appreciation for the role played by some Arab leaders in this regard.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH published today, he said that the popular uprising in occupied Palestine, which has been escalating daily since its eruption 40 days ago, expresses our people's deep belief in their basic rights to refuse both the occupation and its settler, expansionist Zionist entity.

This uprising also erupted to consolidate the spirit of steadfastness and resistance and to reject the logic of defeatism, capitulation, and the search for partial and separate solutions.

The minister added that the continuation of this uprising affirms the spirit of sacrifice and its cohesion with the spirit of martyrdom and struggle that was demonstrated by the heroic fedayeen operations carried out by some heroes of the resistance factions—factions that pursue the slogan of armed struggle through words and deeds.

He asserted that the heroic fedayeen operations, as well as the continued sacrifices which have confused the Zionist enemy, exposed its feeble security and political allegations and theories, and confronted the enemy's security and political leaders with a great dilemma on domestic and international levels, may prompt the enemy to move out of this dilemma by launching an aggression or a war against Syria, which has always stood and continues to stand on the first and basic confrontation line against the Zionist enemy and its ambitions.

The minister affirmed that Syrian-Soviet relations are good, established on firm bases of friendship, mutual respect, and cooperation that bolsters the common interests of both parties. This cooperation also supports the interests of our country and those of our Arab nation and backs our nation's major causes of liberation, development, progress, and a just peace, he added.

Regarding relations between Syria and the United States, the information minister said: These relations can be more positive if the U.S. Administration adopts the principle of dialogue instead of threatening the use of force or economic pressure.

The minister pointed out that if the U.S. Administration departs from this policy, then Syrian-U.S. relations, as well as Arab-U.S. relations, will find a positive atmosphere for work and cooperation in the interests of both parties.

Differences With Iraq Called 'Deep-Rooted'

JN191411 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 88 pp 1, 3

[By Hamadah Fara'nah]

[Text] Damascus—Syria appreciates the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia to settle differences between Syria and Iraq, but the Damascus-Baghdad rift is deep-rooted and requires more contacts and consultations before fruitful results of the mediation endeavours are reached, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said Monday.

"Syria's differences with Iraq are not of geographical or material nature," said Salman in an exclusive interview with the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y. "They are of a special nature, stemming mainly from the two countries' basic stands with regard to national issues," the minister added.

"Syria has always considered the Arab-Israeli conflict as of prime importance and believes that this issue should be given priority over all other considerations and that all efforts should be geared towards countering Israel's expansionist plans," he said.

"This belief has given rise to numerous differences between Syria and Iraq," he explained further.

In reply to a question on Syria's efforts to end the seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, Salman said Damascus had been trying to settle the conflict ever since it broke out. "Syria believes that the war should be brought to an end so as to prevent a drain in Arab and Islamic resources—human and material—which should be mobilised in the confrontation with Israel," he said.

"Syria also believes that the Iran-Iraq war constitutes a source of danger to world security and stability and it deflects world attention from Israel's aggression on Arab countries," said the minister.

He confirmed that Damascus had stepped up its efforts for peace in the Gulf and to prevent an expansion of the Iran-Iraq war and these efforts had achieved some success.

Damascus "will continue its efforts, which are designed to bring the two warring states to the negotiating table and initiate a dialogue based on mutual understanding without any pressure or influence of the foreign naval presence in the Gulf," he added. The minister said the foreign naval forces in the Gulf had in fact increased tension in the region.

But, he said, "Syria realises that certain hostile forces are trying to ruin its attempts towards bringing about peace and trying to involve the Arab Gulf states in the war."

Replying to a question on Syria's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the minister said:

"Syria, which bears a major responsibility and commitment in confronting Israel, realises that the enemy harbours expansionist intentions towards the Arab World. Therefore we strive to rally all Arab forces and to work with Arab countries within a pan-Arab plan to thwart the enemy's objectives. We deal and coordinate with other Arab states and with the PLO in the light of this clear national commitment. In addition, Syria, which seeks to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, does not accept partial solutions on the problem and demands a total boycott of all contacts with the Israeli enemy and the Camp David accord, and calls on the Arabs to adopt an armed struggle strategy in dealing with the common enemy."

"Agreement on these points is bound to help to remove all obstacles that impede a return of normal relations between Syria and the PLO leadership, and can ensure Syria's support for any Palestinian movement's struggle against Israel."

On his country's relations with Egypt, the Syrian minister made it clear that the Camp David accord stands in the way of restoring normal relations between the two countries.

He said Damascus severed relations with Cairo "because of the Camp David agreement, which cut off Egypt from the Arab World and prevented it from honouring its national commitments towards its sister countries."

On Syria's efforts to end the Lebanese crisis, the minister noted that his country had been exerting efforts to save Lebanon from further civil wars and unrest.

Damascus has been mediating among warring factions, but "Israel and its lackeys and other hostile forces have been working in the opposite direction trying to thwart Syria's efforts and cause a fragmentation of Lebanon's territory."

He emphasised that despite the obstacles Syria would continue its efforts to bring about a reconciliation among the various Lebanese parties and help restore security and stability in Lebanon.

On Jordanian-Syrian relations, Salman said Amman-Damascus ties were "characterised with mutual understanding and coordination and brotherly cooperation in bolstering pan-Arab action and confronting the Israeli enemy."

Jordan and Syria are also coordinating the efforts in economic, social and cultural fields through agreements and joint projects like the Al-Wahdah Dam, and also through joint companies, the minister noted. He expressed hope that the two countries would succeed in further promoting their bilateral cooperation in all fields.

A senior member of Syria's ruling party urged Egypt Monday to scrap its peace treaty with Israel. "Our conflict with the enemy is not a dispute over territories. It is a conflict of survival where half-solutions are not accepted," REUTER quoted Sulayman Qaddah, assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, as saying.

"That is why we rejected the Camp David accords (for Egyptian-Israeli peace)." Qaddah told a Damascus rally attended by about 15,000 people to show support for Palestinian protesters in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Party and government leaders, including Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, joined leaders of Damascus-based Palestinian groups at the rally.

"Look at brutal Israeli actions in Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan..." Qaddah said. "Remove this barrier (the peace treaty) which cancelled Egypt's role and deprived the Arabs of a big help at a critical time."

Iranian Minister on Transportation Cooperation

LD171208 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 17, IRNA—Deputy Roads and Transport Minister Ahmad Madani said here Saturday night that he discussed establishment of two Irano-Syrian transport companies for marine, land and railway transportation.

Madani who was speaking to IRNA at the end of a one-week visit to Syria, said the idea behind formation of the companies is to transport Iranian goods including fresh fruits and vegetables and dried fruits to Europe through Syria.

Under the venture, he added, the goods are to be taken to Syrian ports by trailer trucks and train and from there they will be shipped to Europe by Iranian ships.

According to Madani preliminary agreements have also been made for establishing passenger train lines between Iran and Syria. The matter is to be followed, he told IRNA.

On his talks Saturday with the Syrian Minister of Transportation Yusuf al-Ahmad, Madani said that potentials for greater cooperation were explored. Both sides called for promotion of bilateral relations and further strengthening of joint anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist campaign.

The Syrian minister praised the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Palestinian cause.

On Iraqi-imposed war and the situation in the Persian Gulf, Madani quoted the Syrian minister as saying that from the beginning of the conflict to the present day Syria has been against any aggression against Iran and is also against U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf.

3 Executed Publicly for Spying for Israel

JN181225 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1212 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA)—A number of spies who sold themselves to the Israeli enemy for a handful of dollars were executed in one of Damascus' main squares at dawn today.

They are: Fu'ad 'Ali Hasun, born in the Province of Latakia; Muhammad Yahya Badr, born in Damascus; and 'Adnan Mustafa Mahfuz, born in Al-Salamiyah.

UN Veto Proves U.S. 'True Enemy' of Arabs

JN200738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Enemy Threats and the U.S. Veto," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: When Washington voted in favor of the UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to deport the Palestinian citizens from their homeland, the world thought the United States had begun to reconsider its stand toward the Zionist occupation of Arab territories. It thought the U.S. Administration would not dare stand against the international current supporting the popular uprising and denouncing the Zionist practices which led to the fall of scores of martyrs and hundreds of wounded.

However, the recent veto has put matters on the right course and reconfirmed that the United States not only protects Israel from any international sanctions or attempts to isolate it, but is the major instigator which supports the Zionist occupation of Arab territory and the escalation of Israeli crimes against citizens in the occupied territories and against the Arab states surrounding Palestine.

AL-BA'TH adds: The strategic alliance between the United States and Israel is not a mere slogan or plan but an actual daily practice being carried out on the ground. The two sides share a common hostility toward Arabs and a determination to continue their plans to strike at the Arab nation and impose hegemony upon it.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We believe the U.S. veto won't surprise anyone in the Arab region because it is an expression of the official U.S. policy which has been shamelessly declared since the Zionist entity was planted in the heart of our homeland.

This is new proof that although the Arabs' direct enemy might be Israel, their true and actual enemy is the United States. This has been proved by the events of the past 40 years.

Commentary Says Richard Murphy 'Israeli Agent'

JN201019 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1634 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is one of the prominent political figures who has visited our area in past years on the pretext of searching for ways to activate a political settlement.

However, the occasion that has prompted the mentioning of Murphy's name now is not renewed talk about a settlement, but Murphy's participation in a conference held in Washington of Israeli consuls, representatives of the government of the Zionist terrorists, and Zionist organizations.

The task of such a conference is to discuss ways to confront the sudden change in U.S. public opinion as a result of the uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and ways to enable Israel to restore its hegemony over the U.S. media, although such media are carrying very little about the uprising.

News agencies report that participants in the conference whose task is to discuss ways to mislead the U.S. public include Yosi Beilin, Israeli Foreign Ministry political affairs director; Colette Avital, Israeli Foreign Ministry assistant director general for information affairs; Morris Abraham, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organizations in the United States; and Richard Murphy.

By participating in such a conference, Murphy proves he is merely an Israeli agent and an enemy of democracy, peace, and the rights of the Palestinian people.

To expose such facts about Murphy and those of his ilk, it is necessary to have a blacklist of the names of the likes of Murphy, regardless of the posts they occupy in their countries.

They should be banned from visiting Arab countries from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf as a demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinian people, their uprising, and their legitimate struggle. Then the Arabs will see how the U.S. Administration will be compelled to ban the likes of Richard Murphy from the U.S. State Department.

The stands of U.S. radio and television networks and the U.S. press on the uprising in the occupied territory can be taken as a measure to gauge the extent of the neutrality of such media or their subservience to Israel and, consequently, to adopt stances toward them in light of their approach to the facts.

Those who adopt stands hostile to the cause of our Palestinian Arab people and their just struggle, regardless of the positions they hold and wherever they may be, must be considered enemies of the Arab nation. Arab policy toward them must be decided on that basis.

Afghanistan

7-Party Alliance Refuses To Meet UN's Cordovez

BK191440 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 19 (AFP)—An Afghan rebel alliance said Tuesday that it will not meet with Diego Cordovez, the United Nations intermediary on Afghanistan, accusing him of undermining the guerrillas' military gains at political talks.

"Mr. Cordovez is serving the Soviet interests at the expense of the mujahidin," said a statement issued on behalf of the powerful seven-party resistance alliance by its chief Muhammad Yunis Khalis.

The rebel refusal to meet Mr. Cordovez came on the eve of visits he planned to make to Kabul and Islamabad in search of a political settlement to the eight-year-old Afghan conflict.

"We are not ready to talk to Cordovez and we are not going to participate in the Geneva negotiations," the strongly-worded statement from the Peshawar-based Afghan rebel alliance said.

The statement demanded that the U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan abandon his mission which it said runs "contrary to U.N. resolutions" on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Mr. Cordovez, who has been conducting indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva since April 1982, is due here this week to prepare for the final round of Geneva talks aimed at reaching an accord on withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He has said that he planned to meet resistance leaders to seek their views on an interim government arrangement following a withdrawal of Soviet troops in Afghanistan since 1979.

Press reports here have said that efforts were under way to convince the Afghan guerrillas to show flexibility in accommodating members of the ruling Communist Party in a mujahidin coalition government.

But the statement said that whatever Mr. Cordovez achieved at the Geneva talks it would not be acceptable to the mujahidin, who are not represented at the discussions.

"We have rejected it earlier also and we reject it again" because the talks revolve around "Moscow's interests," the rebel alliance said.

The alliance accused the U.N. intermediary of wanting to "snatch" the mujahidin's military gains on the ground at the negotiating table.

The alliance demanded that the Geneva process be "abandoned" and that Moscow clearly state its interest in a political settlement recognizing that the mujahidin are a vital party in the conflict.

Then the mujahidin will announce their political stand on the issue, the alliance added.

Mr. Cordovez has not only "set aside" U.N. resolutions calling for immediate and unconditional Soviet withdrawal, but is also pleading for an Afghan Communist Party role in the future Afghan government, the alliance said. For this reason the alliance has refused to meet him and rejected the Geneva process, the statement added.

The Afghan issue can only be resolved through direct negotiations between the two real parties to the conflict, it said.

The alliance, reiterating its refusal to form a coalition with the ruling party, rejected any compromise with the communists saying it was "determined to close all doors leading to the betrayal of the Afghan cause for which thousands have been martyred, orphaned and widowed."

"Our jihad (holy war) has entered a sensitive stage and we are strong enough to continue our struggle for a purely Islamic government in Afghanistan," it said.

National Reconciliation Commission Meets 16 Jan

LD161801 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Kabul, 16 Jan (BAKHTAR)—The extraordinary session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission was held this morning in Storey Palace to mark the anniversary of the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy. It was attended by esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and chaired by Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the National Front and chairman of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission.

The session began after the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran and then esteemed Najibullah delivered a detailed speech about the policy of national reconciliation and the gains of the humane policy of national reconciliation inside and outside the country. The speech was approved and welcomed by applause. [passage omitted]

The work of the session ended around 1200 after the national anthem of the Republic of Afghanistan was played.

Najibullah Addresses Session

LD171625 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1615 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Speech by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, at the 16 January extraordinary session of the Supreme Nation Reconciliation Commission held in Kabul's Storey Palace—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed members of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission, compatriots, combatant friends, brothers, and sisters.

Exactly a year ago, in this historical hall for the first time, the sound of a people weary of conflict echoed toward reconciliation and an end to the fratricidal war. Time will go by and history will record all the issues in their places. But there is no doubt that the year which has passed will remain in the memory of the Afghan people as the year of national reconciliation, the year of tranformation for the destiny of the country and the nation.

I want to believe that our people will name 15 January as the day of peace since it was from this day that we began to implement the national reconciliation policy.

The vital force of national reconciliation is embodied in the bold implementation of the new political principles, which place the value of human life higher than the interests of classes, ideology, and limited social interests.

The truth of national reconciliation is embodied in the decisive foiling of the so-called revolutionary war, warmongering and prejudice, avoiding ignoble efforts, hiding behind the military assistance of friends, and avoiding the urgent problems of the country. The humanity of national reconciliation is embodied in its deep closeness with the wishes and aims of the Afghan people and the people of the whole region.

The national reconciliation policy has been brought about by the people themselves. This policy is not offices or a chair. It is the policy of streets, cities, villages, and grounds and the policy of a people who are thirsty for peace and a prosperous life.

We see the internationalism of the national reconciliation policy in the fact that it takes its origin from the opinions of Lenin on peace and is the basic aim of the social revolution. This policy has an unshakable link with the new way of political thinking and the philosophy of peace. This policy is an instrument for solving national and regional conflicts and has a role in the consolidation of peace all over planet Earth.

We speak with pride and honor about our gains and successes in the hard struggle. This year 3,200 villages have joined the people's power peacefully. In the last 8 years alone 6,200 villages have joined the state's power. And 110,000 compatriots have returned to their families and their fatherland from camps in Iran and Pakistan, while previously about 5,000 persons returned to the homeland. More than 40,000 armed former opposition men have ended their confrontation and have signed the cease-fire and reconciliation protocols. About 6,000 of their representatives have been included in the organs of the coalition administration. Together with the former armed opposition, more than 150,000 persons have returned to peaceful life. I want to mention that during all the years of the undeclared war, the number of opposition figures who laid down their arms was not more than 12,000.

At the request of the national reconciliation commissions and with the two approved decrees, up to 19,000 people have been released from prison. As a result of the peace-seeking initiative by the people, peace regions have been established, which today have been transformed into a political fact of the country. In the peace zone there are 165 districts and subdistricts, 2 provinces, and 1,150 villages in which more than 3 million people live. A year ago there was no such thing at all.

The statistics of the national reconciliation policy do not cover all the depth and importance of the transformation which has occured in Afghan society. This policy covers all aspects of social life; namely, economic, cultural, military, and the creation of a new state administration. Some of the positive aspects of the reconciliation policy are the growth of the national economy, active attention to private investors and producers of goods, an improvement in the land reform and water laws, the encouragment of tradesmen's craftwork and output, and the development of the market system.

The national investors' nationwide conference was held for the first time in the country. Regulations have been approved which open up a better prospect for the development of all basic social and economic foundations.

During the year since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, new industrial establishments have been opened, and 30 establishments—especially in the private and mixed sectors—have become active again. The volume of industrial output has increased by 3.5 percent and 138,000 tonnes of wheat have been produced. We have never had such results, neither before the revolution nor after.

During this time we have paid more attention to the issues of social policy. Our successes in eliminating illitercy, developing public education and training and health, attending to children, improving women's living conditions from the point of view of pay and production, comprehensive assistance to the Muslim people, and support for the sacred religion of Islam have been the focus of attention of our party and government.

In the past year the salaries of more than 700,000 people have increased. We take a specific question: What has a normal family in the city received from the state? We

assume that the head of the family is a worker in a state establishement, two of his sons work for the army and three of his children study in school. The increase in the head of the family's annual salary, taking into account the free distribution of coupons and other concessions, is 20,000 afghanis a year.

The salary of their children has increased five times. They are now able to get goods and materials through the military trade system [as heard] 1.5-2 times cheaper than the bazaar price.

In the new academic year, the children of these families, as well as all students of the country, will come to school in free uniforms. These issues are noticeable assistance to the budget of an ordinary city worker. This assistance will total almost 105,000 afghanis for each family.

It is also worth mentioning that for the first time in the history of Afghanistan, an assembly of nomads and toiling people of the Hazara nationality was held in the first year of the national reconciliation policy.

When we mention these facts and figures, we think with feelings of appreciation about our brave, bold, and toiling people, the peace-creating activity, strength, energy, and knowledge of the people, and the various strata that gave them an impetus. The people have been transformed into the builders of reconciliation and a special role in this belongs to the PDPA, which with the consideration of the historical situation, was turned into the organizer and the executer of this policy.

The National Front has increased its effects on the situation in the country. Esteemed Hatif, one of the great worthy personalities of contemporary Afghanistan, is in charge of it.

We have reason to talk about mobilizing the patriotic forces under the banner of reconciliation and progress. [Words indistinct] Islamic and peasant parties have taken great and far-sighted steps. Our mothers, sons, and daughters and our theologians have become supporters of the new policy.

Our ministries under the leadership of the Council of Ministers have carried out great works. We thank our people for all those things which have been carried out for the security and protection of our tribes and nationalities, for all those things which have been done to establish peace in our historical land.

I congratulate all of you, the toiling people, the brave people, compatriots, on the first year of national reconciliation. [applause] I am sure that the difficulties which our people have put behind them now, has made them stronger and will make them undefeatable.

Listen now to what our compatriots say about the reconciliation policy. Professor Dr Jalal said: After the declaration of this policy I found peace of mind in work and life. Now I see with confidence and hope a tomorrow for my children's future. Muhammad Ehsas, a worker in a stone-cutting factory said [words indistinct] that during the year of national reconciliation, all the workers have been promoted one grade higher. Coupons have been put at their disposal. The quality of food and medical assistance has improved. The best workers have been awarded state medals and decorations. A workers' school has been opened in the factory.

Mawlawi Ahmad Gol says that the source of national reconciliation is the holy Koran. This policy is the will of God. Reconciliation is a good measure and reconciliation for us has the importance of water for thirsty people. Muhammad Naim, a soldier, said: I left my country in 1980-81 and returned to the homeland after the announcement of the national reconciliation policy. This is the greatest transformation in my life. I shall use all of my efforts as a soldier to implement this policy.

There are thousands of such comments. When last year we embarked on peace-creating activities, we were thinking clearly that the national reconciliation policy is not a one-way street. Following the national interests, which are higher than ideological interests, we have extended our hands to the opposition. And we were the first to welcome the opposite side. We were the first people to build the bridge of fraternity over the chasm of the 8-year-old war, which has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of our compatriots and cost 50 million afghanis of our national wealth. Think about this figure. Can it be excused by the killing of people, the destruction of villages, schools, canals, hospitals, and factories?

Ask the widows and the mothers who have lost their husbands and children. Ask those children who suffer from hunger. It is said in the holy Koran that he who kills his Muslim brother intentionally will suffer the eternal fire of hell.

We were the first to propose the start of a dialogue. For exactly 52 nights and days we observed the cease-fire. One of the greatest combatant forces put their arms sheathed its weapons. But the friction caused by the 8-year war was too great. Unprecedented pressure was inflicted by the Western imperialist circles and regional reaction.

Huge amounts of the most modern types of weapons have been put at the disposal of the irreconcilable chieftains of the bands in an unprecedented manner. Dollars, marks, and pounds sterling as foreign assistance were poured into the pockets of the seven-party alliance and its close servants, several times more than before.

Terrorist and destructive activities have increased in scope. During the past 9 months the extremists have perpetrated 40 explosions and 12 terrorist actions in Kabul and the provinces as a result of which 95 people were martyred, 140 people were injured, and 8 people were abducted. A motor vehicle loaded with explosive

substances exploded in Jalalabad. In Herat, in the vicinity of Haji Yaqub mosque, in the Ministry of Education and Training, a motorcycle exploded in Kabul's Microrayan market. A pressure cooker exploded in Golfroshi Road, and explosives were planted in the Ministry of Transport.

Mawlawi Nabi, a preacher in the holy Kerqa Mosque; Haji Amanollah, chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission; Abdurrazaq, a senator from Kandahar province; Ghulam Haydar Khan, chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission in Baghlan province; Muhammad Aslam, chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission of Badghis Province; Haji Zaki, a delegate in the historic Grand Assembly; the deputy governor of Shakardara; and Muhammad Sediq, a commander of a gang who had come over to the side of the government—they were all assassinated. What was their crime? Only that they took a stand on the side of peace and against the war.

On the eve of the nationwide PDPA conference a number of persons who had placed 14 kilograms of explosives in a taxi and parked it next to the Ministry of Justice were arrested. An explosion intended to take place in the vicinity of the Soviet Embassy was prevented by the security organs.

Strong opposition to the policy of national reconciliation, the 3-4 times intensification of firing on the villages and cities, has forced the armed forces of Afghanistan to retaliate. Our enemies spitefully misused this breathing space to transport weapons and ammunition to the territory of the country and to concentrate their forces for new attacks and new conspiracies.

A lawful question can be asked: Why have imperialism, the irreconcilable portion of the counterrevolutionaries, and the regional reaction taken strong hostile action against national reconciliation? What has prevented them from supporting our peaceful initiatives?

The answers to these questions are very easy and everyone knows them. First, the success of reconciliation will mean that they will lose an important political opportunity to exert pressure on the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Second, the victory of reconciliation will accelerate progressive socioeconomic transformations and intensify the democratic and anti-imperialist movements in the liberated countries and thus weaken the stand of imperialism and reaction in the heart of the Asian Continent.

Western intelligence services have created [word indistinct] mercenary killers in the Pakistani camps who bring to our country death and destruction. As before, in order to safeguard imperialist interests, they kill thousands of deceived Afghans. The counterrevolutionary Afghan (?brothers) have long since been transformed into obedient perpetrators of the alien will.

The national reconciliation policy means for them the threat of losing material and political benefits. It is very simple for the traders in death who are under the shield of the dollar and outside the country to announce that national reconciliation is a propaganda deceit. One can deceive 1, 2, 3, 20, or 30 people but you cannot deceive all of the people. Most people when given the choice between death and life are in favor of life. This is a natural choice and conforms with the will of almighty God.

Without waiting for the agreement of the chieftains of the counterrevolutionaries, we have began the formation of coalitions in the localities; namely, in the villages, subdistricts, districts, and provinces. Thus the reconciliation which was confronted with open hostility by the seven-party alliance in Peshawar has not been halted. The policy which was created by the people will spread throughout the country—in the units of the coalition administration. Today one-sixth of the administrative units in the country have a coalition administration.

From the road passed since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, our shortcomings can also clearly be exposed. There is a saying among our people: Only the person who takes no action makes no mistakes.

In undertaking a duty with historic importance—that is, the restoration of national peace—we deem it necessary to openly consult with the people of Afghanistan on implementing the policy of national reconciliation.

With consistent work and trust we should acquire their support. Our consultations with the people have expanded, especially this last year. All major decisions have been taken with the participation of all the people. One should recall the party sessions of Hamal [21 March-20 April], the extraordinary plenums and the Jawza [22 May-21 June] plenum of the Central Committee, the national conference on national reconciliation, the National Assembly and the soliciting of people's views on the Constitution. Each of these measures represented serious work, a general opinion of the people and their best representatives, who persistantly are busy seeking ways to end the country's conflicts.

The (?work) of the national reconciliation policy is the will of God, may He be glorified. However, the national reconciliation policy is not magic or deceptive. In order to implement it, hard and complicated work by all state bodies, both in central and local areas, is needed. This new policy demands the advancement of great improvement in our state and economic life and the fundamental reconstruction of the political system after the revolution in the country. The path of reconstruction is connected with the democracy, with the creation of a coalition and multiparty system, with the formation of new bodies of power based on the general election and national council and local councils.

In the very near future the elections law will be approved, and we will embark on election campaigns immediately. Without a doubt, all political parties and organizations, all patriotic personalities inside and outside the country, will take part in the elections. We expect that the opposition will be able to assess correctly the possibility of their true participation in creating a new form of power which has been given to them, and they will take part in the elections.

I want to mention that we have made more than 20 proposals to the opposition, and we are ready to make new compromises. In reply, we received a decisive answer of rejection. What is it? The sign of their power? Their powerful character or their extended political view? No. This is their weakness, their indifference, their lack of responsibility and whimsicality.

From the mouths of all those who call themselves opposition leaders, like fire from a machinegun, come slogans prepared by their masters from across the seas. For example, Islam is in danger in Afghanistan. We are not ready to talk as long as the limited Soviet contingents are stationed in Afghanistan. We can not allow the PDPA and the Kabul regime to remain in power.

This recording has been played by the leaders of the counterrevolutionaries day and night for many years, without listening to anyone or anything. It falls on us to prove, again and again, issues which we have proved and to begin all work again from (?zero). What is this? Playing with politics? What is this? An act? No. This is a stand. Anyway, we can talk again and again about our points of view and our struggle to implement them.

Concerning the return of the military internationalists to their homeland, we expect success in the Geneva talks. After that, the return will take place during 1988. At present, Soviet military forces are not stationed in 13 provinces. Why does the opposite side not participate in a coalition in these provinces? If the imperialists and forces of regional reaction would stop dispatching arms and ammunition to the irreconciliable extremist, Afghan counterrevolutionaries and guarantee noninterference in our country's internal affairs, the return of the Soviet contingents could be accelerated.

The answer lies with the U.S. Administration and the Pakistani leadership. In this way, the issue of the return of the limited Soviet contingents has been solved. Pressing this issue cannot exonerate the opposition leaders for rejecting a national dialogue and efforts to prevent the peace-creating process in Afghanistan. Does the opposition not understand this? The seven-party alliance persistently avoids talks with us. Its leaders more then anyone refer to this issue. They say there can be no conciliation with Kabul's regime. This effort covers the truth about the people's power.

The fact is that our power is not limited around Kabul. This power is a political force, which was able to acquire the support of people in all Afghanistan, create bodies of state power in all the administrative centers of the country, and organize an armed forces with combat capability.

The present state of Afghanistan has been officially recognized by 83 countries in the world. The people's power has representatives in all major international organizations. To ignore the people's power, which really exists, and not to recognize officially our gains in developing the national economy, culture, and social spheres, is not common sense. This vengefulness embodies both political darkness and knowing deception of the people. The invitation to kill and slaughter is echoing louder. An intimidation campaign addressed to progressive intellectuals, party members, the DYOA, and the trade unions has been launched. Our people say: He who shouts the loudest is usually the most afraid.

So it is here, our people should understand the situation and become united. They should not allow the reactionary circles to take power, circles which would retard Afghanistan on the path of progress by decades.

Difficult experiences should contribute to national unity. Concerning the danger to Islam, this accusation is fully out of place and baseless. Even foreign journalists could not ask this question. A true Muslim can see who is building in the name of God and the sacred religion of Islam and work, and who is destroying the sacred places and mosques and killing Muslims against the instructions of God and holy Koran.

The worst and most sinful issue is to transform Islam into a political instrument. If we are true Muslims, let us leave Islam alone. Then we can find our common viewpoint with each representative of the opposition. Protection concerning the enhancement of the people's welfare, transforming the economy toward scientific and technical progress, strengthening the moral stand based on national tradition and demands and the Islamic religion, and meeting the requirements of all resident tribes in the country, can and should meet these points of contact.

Do we have the right to avoid joint assessment of the important issues concerning the utilization of land and water, harvest and grain trade, taxes, schools, hospitals, and all those things which worry humanity?

The Armed Forces of Afghanistan are the safety shield of national reconciliation. Their number has increased noticeably during the last year. Their salaries and living conditions have improved. Today the hard and pressing duty—the defense of those compatriots who are standing on the path of reconciliation—is entrusted to the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces have put their best foot forward in a series of successful combat operations to eliminate and destroy the irreconcilable bands in Qandahar and Herat. Combat readiness, patriotism, and independence, opening the Gardeyz-Khowst road and breaking the economic blockade of Khowst district are bright examples.

During the last few days, the inhabitants of Khowst have received 20,000 tonnes of goods. It is the first time in history that such a large quantity of food has been dispatched to Khowst. Just to help you understand, this proves that 10,000 transport vehicles have delivered goods to Khowst. If these goods had been sent by air, 200 large airplanes would have been needed.

On 15 Jadi [5 January 1988] of the current year at a gathering of Afghan emigrants in Peshawar the following commanders were executed for refusing to fight in the Zadran region, 40 km southeast of Gardeyz, and for going willfully to Pakistan: Omar, a commander of 30 men; (?Gol Mir) a commander of 25 men; Sultan, a commander of 35 men; and Aminollah, a commander of 20 men. All of them were from Paktia Province. Two commanders from Ghazni, one commander from Lowar, two commanders from the northern provinces were also executed. What do these facts which are the manifestation of a medieval system prove?

We decided in the Loya Jirgah that we would use peaceful means right up to the last minute in this regard. Why were these people executed? Because they took action against war.

What do you propose, esteemed members of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission? We want to continue strengthening the country's armed forces so that they will be capable of confronting any enemy independently and successfully. As the president of the country and high commander of the country's Armed Forces, I refer to our millions of compatriots, and I declare that the army, Sarandoy, state security, units and detachments of self-defense and groups of party members will, in each city and in each province, confidently defend the people's lives and property against armed extremists groups.

I want each family and each person to have confidence in this matter. The revenge-seeking plans by the reactionaries are bound to be defeated. No one should attempt to frighten the people of Afghanistan. They will not stray from the path of national reconciliation. They will not allow a new bloodbath to occur.

Our foreign policy is steadfastly tied to the direction of the internal policy of national reconciliation. Last year we consistently made efforts to make progress in talks with Pakistan. We persistently strived to find mutual understanding with leaders of Iran. The socialist countries have rendered great diplomatic support to us. We recently visted India, Vietnam, and Kampuchea, and we demonstrated that our people have many friends in South Asia and Southeast Asia. We are not alone in our struggle, and the understanding of this issue gives us power and confidence.

During the first year of reconciliation, the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and the festival of all the freedom-loving people entered our life. We know that the Soviet people are also waiting for peace to prevail in Afghanistan. Our northern neighbors render valuable assistance toward the cause of national reconciliation. People always respond to a favor with a favor.

What preparations have we made for our journey into the second year of reconciliation? First of all, there is experience, the experience of struggle and creativity, the accumulated experience of establishing a national peace and the end of combat operations, which is continuing everywhere. Our basic goal for the second year of reconciliation is for it to be resolving and pivotal. We will give irreversable impetus to this process. This will be the year of cohesion, the year of creating strong unity among all the patriotic and progressive forces who are in favor of national peace. This will be the year of building a new state apparatus based on the consolidation of power of the presidential, coalition, and multiparty system, which have been given a legal form by the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. This will be the first year of general elections in the country's history, the year of elections to the national council and local bodies, with full regional and national representation.

This will be the year of democratizing the state apparatus from top to bottom and attracting forces to campaign against bureaucracy and abuses. This will be the year in which we will implement the democratic transformation that has been achieved in all spheres of Afghanistan's society. We are sure that the congress of the social organizations—youths, trade unions, women, and the union of the intelligentsia—will play a notable part in resolving these issues.

This will be the year of preparing and holding the second [as received] PDPA congress which will be transformed into an important social and basic event of the country. This is the year of the 10th anniversary of the victory of April Revolution; that is, the festival of all the people.

This will be a year of great and new measures toward the growth of the national economy. We need to consider the sphere of the national economy as a priority sphere in implementing the national reconciliation policy. Reactivating and building new establishments, attracting vast masses of people to produce goods and handicrafts, to agricultural and peasant production, to the output of the private establishment and big firms, enjoy an importance of the first degree.

The issue of land is especially important. The issue of land and water will remain at the center. There is no other way to bring prices down and enhance people's living conditions.

This will be the year to make active efforts to solve social issues, such as building residential houses, hospitals, schools, and mosques; improving the working and living conditions of the workers, peasants, tradesmen, and nomads.

We have consistently raised the role of the peace-creating theologians and will pay attention to the requirements of Muslims.

We will persistently resolve the accumulated problems of national growth. You will believe this in the very near future. We will enhance our efforts to develop national culture and science, and to enhance the role of the intelligentsia in resolving general issues.

This will be a year of further strengthening our Armed Forces. We still have not taken our sword from its sheath. We have not colored the work which lies before us. Serious difficulties and tests are awaiting us along this path.

I again address the opposition with the following proposal: Objectively assess our action program for the second year of national reconciliation. If you agree that the issues discussed demand solutions in the interests of the people, we invite you to peaceful cooperation. If not, then tell our compatriots the truth honorably.

When the people want to quickly build a bridge over a roaring river, they begin constructing the bridge from both sides. Bridges unite our people for friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. The strength of these bridges should be safe and their foundation should be strong. When we embark on building national peace, we have the right to expect specific steps from the opposite side, and joint participation in creating general welfare and in consolidating peace.

Esteemed members of the Supreme Commission of National Reconciliation, friends-in-arms, brothers and sisters, I address all Afghans, without taking into account their political beliefs and views: In the name of the prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family, cooperate for the sake of goodness and righteousness. Do not cooperate for the sake of sin and aggression. Muslims should be safe from the mischief of other Muslims' tongues and hands.

Sons and daughters of Afghanistan, let there be a place in your hearts for the word of peace. Let each one of us think whether he fulfilled his Islamic and patriotic duty, whether he has made every effort to establish peace in his land. We should have answered this question before today. We have to answer those who fearfully hear the sound of explosions and those who have not been born yet. We invite all Afghans to peace for the sake of their lives and prosperity.

Afghans, let us unite to preserve the country's honor. Thank you. [applause]

Supply Convoy Arrives in Khowst 19 Jan

LD200002 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] In continuing the sending of supplies to Khowst major district, the (?17th) supply convoy of 150 vehicles carrying 1,207 tonnes of food and commodities arrived today.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent's report from Gardeyz, over 21,207 tonnes of foodstuffs and consumer goods have been sent to Khowst major district by 2,507 transport vehicles since the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. Foodstuffs and consumer goods continue to be sent there.

Moscow City Delegation Continues Visit to Kabul

Holds Talks With Razmjo

LD160924 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 15, BAKHTAR—A delegation of the Executive Committee of Moscow City People's Council led by O. Popov, deputy chairman of that committee, met with 'Abdul Zohur Razmju, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and secretary of the party committee of Kabul city.

At the meeting, Zohur Razmju talked about the problems of Kabul city in different aspects including canalisation and water supply, residential houses, education, public health and city transport.

Reciprocally, the guest delegation expressed its readiness to render cooperation in accordance with the earlier protocols signed.

The delegation also visited various sect one [as received] of construction enterprise of Kabul municipality, asphalting factory, residential projects and some hospitals.

Delegation Departs 18 Jan

LD200644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0416 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 19, BAKHTAR—In the framework of direct links of cooperation between Moscow and Kabul, the visit of the delegation of the Executive Committee of the People's Council of Moscow City, headed by O. Popov, deputy chairman of the committee to Afghanistan, concluded on Monday.

Summing up the results of his visit, the head of the delegation before departing home said in an interview to a BAKHTAR correspondent at the airport: "The delegation of the Executive Committee of the People's Council of Moscow City came to Kabul for rendering all-rounded assistance and discussing the ways of solution of the acute problems of Kabul city, specially in the spheres of construction, transport, public health, and education.

Our delegation, he continued to say, during its stay in Kabul visited a number of cultural institutions and industrial enterprises. The delegation while visiting the housing construction project of Kabul promised rendering all-rounded assistance to the Afghan side for the completion of the extension part of the project which will increase the production capacity of the project from 67,000 square metres to 100,000 square metres. The protocol in this regard had earlier been reached between the economic consulate of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul and Kabul municipality.

O. Popov added: "We are confident that with the completion of the extension part of housing construction project, the problems emanating from the insufficiency of residential houses in Kabul will be solved."

"Our delegation got acquainted closely with the existing problems of Kabul city emanating from the rapid growth of population in Kabul, supplying water for residential houses and canalisation, problems of education, public health, and transportation."

"The Soviet delegation will render assistance for the solution of these problems. Besides, we signed new protocols with the Afghan authorities on prospective of Kabul city, taking into account the growth of population", he concluded.

Bangladesh

Bomb Blasts Mark Opposition Strike 20 Jan

BK200453 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, the dawn-to-dusk program called by the 21 political parties, including 3 main opposition alliances, began at 0600 this morning. The strike has been called for today and tomorrow as part of the movement to press for the resignation of President Ershad and the handing over of power to a neutral government.

Incidents of bomb blasts have been reported from different parts of the capital, Dhaka, since early this morning. Except for cycle rickshaws, all types of vehicles are off the road. Shops, business establishments, and markets are closed. Educational institutions also remained closed.

Meanwhile, the liaison committee of the opposition alliances has also given a dawn-to-dusk program for Saturday next, which coincides with the last date for filing of nomination papers for the Bangladesh parliamentary election.

Strike Paralyzes Main Cities

BK200727 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 20 Jan 88

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Jan 20 (AFP)—An opposition-called general strike against the government of President Hussein Mohammad Ershad was enforced in the Bangladesh capital Wednesday and witnesses said the call was being widely followed.

Armed riot police patrolled the mostly deserted city streets as part of tightened security against the dawn-to-dusk work stoppage.

The strike, orginally scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, was extended to Saturday at the last minute by the three major opposition alliances and the rightwing Jamiat-i-Islami Party.

Witnesses said that except for a few rickshaws, all private and public transport including government buses and police vehicles was off the road as the strike took effect. Long-distance bus terminals were also shut.

Major shopping centres, markets and businesses were closed. Banks and financial institutions kept their gates either closed or partially open although no banks reported any transactions taking place, witnesses said.

Police said there was some picketing but no major incident was reported.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent in Chittagong said the strike was being widely followed in the port city and that most activities were paralysed. Buses, trucks and other vehicles stayed off the streets although a few rickshaws could be seen. Police reported no incidents. [passage omitted]

15 Reported Injured in Dhaka Police Charge

BK200332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 15 persons, including 2 journalists, were injured in police lathi [baton] charge to disperse the opposition-sponsored torch processions in Dhaka yesterday. Several arrests were made. Opposition parties tried to bring out joint torch processions as a prelude to their 2-day dawn-to-dusk strike beginning from today. They are demanding the resignation of President Ershad and handing over of power to a neutral government.

Commentary Urges Opposition To Hold Dialogue

BK190421 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The political situation in the country, to use words of [words indistinct], is in a state of flux. The core of the present political problem is the coming elections. There is no dispute between the government and the opposition about the holding of elections. Both agree that holding of elections is a must to retrieve the country from the present political impasse. The dispute between the government and the opposition is about the manner in which the elections shall be held. The opposition's precondition for joining the elections is the stepping down of the government. The opposition feels that no free and fair election is possible under the present administration. The government, on the other hand, says that opposition demand for its resignation is not constitutional; therefore, it was not fit for consideration. The government argues that it was willing to concede any other opposition demand for holding of free and fair elections excepting the resignation of the government.

The two sides are engaged in an endless debate and there is no sign that the crisis will be overcome. But no patriotic or sane person would wish the continuity of the present political crisis which, according to reports, has hit the economy adversely. Bangladesh's economy has never been in such a buoyant state as to be able to absorb the shock of stoppages of work in mills, factories, and offices. So there has to be a political solution to the present crisis.

The present political crisis could be overcome through a dialogue between the government and the opposition political parties. Sitting across the table, face to face, could at least help in reducing the differences. There is no harm in a dialogue. The opposition appears to be unnecessarily [words indistinct]. If Ronald Reagan, a strong enemy of communism, and the Soviet Communist Party chief, Mikhail Gorbachev, could sit across the table and sign the INF Treaty; if two Kims in South Korea initiated dialogue for electoral reforms, there is no reason why the opposition could not sit with the government. There is no compulsion for the opposition to accept the government's point of view. The opposition can place its demands across the table and listen to what the government has to say. They can strike a compromise which could be much easier to do sitting across the table.

President Hussein Mohammad Ershad, in an interview with a national Bengali daily, said he was even willing to hold the presidential elections much ahead of schedule to strengthen the constitutional process in the country. He said the government was under constitutional obligation to hold the elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the parliament. He said the constitutional process would come to a halt if the elections could not be held within the stipulated period. He failed to understand why the opposition is staying away from the elections and added elections is the only way to change the government in a democratic set up. He feels that if the present trend continues, it would cause enormous harm to political, social, and economic life of the country.

The opposition is convinced that free and fair elections is not possible under the government. They feel that (?it might) manipulate election results. President Ershad, in order to allay opposition fears, is willing to enlarge the composition of the election commission even with their representatives. He is even ready to allow foreign observers to oversee the conduct of the elections. These appear to be fair proposals for making the elections free. Its terms could further be expanded with opposition proposing new formula. The present crisis must come to an end. This both the government and the opposition must bear in mind. Uncertain conditions will be harmful for the nation. The people want to see an end to these uncertainties.

TASS, BSS Agree To Exchange News Bulletins

BK181313 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] An agreement for exchange of news bulletins between the Bangladesh News Agency, BSS, and the Soviet news agency, TASS, was signed in Dhaka on Monday. The chief editor and managing director of the BSS, Mr Mahbubul Alam, and the Soviet ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr V.G. Belyayev, signed the agreement.

India

Rajiv Gandhi Leaves For Peshawar 20 Jan

BK200746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left by a special Indian Air Force plane for Peshawar [Pakistan] today to pay his last respects to the Frontier Gandhi [Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan]. He has deferred his visit to Sweden by a few hours. Mr Gandhi is accompanied by Mrs Sonia Gandhi, several cabinet ministers, including Mr Buta Singh, Mr Natwar Singh, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, Miss Saroj Khaparde, and Mr Chidambaram, and Mr Mohammad Yunus.

Returns, Departs for Stockholm

BK201255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, died in Peshawar this morning. The octogenarian freedom fighter was in coma for the last several months. His body will be taken to Jalalabad in Afghanistan for burial on Friday.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, delayed his departure to Sweden and flew to Peshawar to pay his last respects to the Frontier Gandhi. He was accompanied by Mrs Sonia Gandhi and a number of union ministers, including Mr Narasimha Rao, Mr Buta Singh, and Mrs Mohsian Kidwai. After landing at Peshawar Airport, Mr Gandhi drove straight to Jinnah Park where Badshah Khan's body is lying in state. He laid a wreath at the body of the departed leader and offered prayers along with the close relatives of Ghaffar Khan.

The AIR special correspondent, Harish Avasthi, who covered the brief visit, reports that hundreds of mourners waved at Mr Gandhi in an apparent appreciation of his gesture of personally visiting them to share their grief. Speaking to Pakistan television, Mr Gandhi described Ghaffar Khan as an apostle of peace and nonviolence. Mr Gandhi said Badshah Khan was a freedom fighter who fought for human rights to his last day. We bow our heads to him.

Mr Gandhi returned to the capital this afternoon and left for Stockholm on a 4-day visit to Sweden.

'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders Issued To Check Rioting

BK200312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, 1 person was stabbed to death and 200 huts were burned yesterday in clashes between 2 groups in 5 villages of (Kattumannar Kovil) taluk [revenue area] in South Arcot District. Shoot-at-sight orders have been issued to check rioting and looting in the district. The situation is now under control. Violent incidents were also reported from Gangaikonda Sholapuram in Tiruchirapalli District and adjoining Tanjore.

Official Claims Darjeeling Situation Worsening

BK190321 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has said that the state government will not accept any fresh demands of the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] about extension of territory of the proposed hill development council for Darjeeling. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said he would be meeting the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today to discuss the problem.

The Sikkim chief minister, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, has said the center should convene a joint meeting between the West Bengal government and the GNLF representatives to hammer out an amicable solution to the Darjeeling problem. Speaking to newsmen in Gangtok, he said the situation in the Darjeeling Hill areas has deteriorated.

4 GNLF Members Killed

BK191314 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, are to have a joint meeting with the GNLF leader, Mr Subash Gheishing, to find a permanent solution to the problem in the Darjeeling Hill areas. The talks will be on the basis of a solution proposed earlier. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting Mr Buta Singh had with Mr Jyoti Basu in New Delhi today. They reviewed the situation in the Darjeeling Hill areas. Mr Basu apprised the home minister of the steps taken by the West Bengal government to maintain law and order. Mr Buta Singh informed them of the talks he had with the GNLF leader recently.

Meanwhile, four GNLF activists were killed and five CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers], including one subinspector, injured in an encounter at Amalbhotia-Lepchakot area under Kurseong subdivision today. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Police] Darjeeling range told our Kurseong correspondent that the police party went to conduct a raid when they were attacked by GNLF activists with land mines and gun fire. The police returned the fire in which four GNLF men, including the leader of its Kurseong unit, Mr Nagin Lama, were killed.

New Rajasthan Chief Minister Sworn In 20 Jan

BK200715 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Shiv Charan Mathur has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Rajasthan. The acting governor, Mr J.S. Verma, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Mathur at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Jaipur today. Earlier, at a meeting of the state Congress-I legislature party, Mr Mathur was unanimously elected the leader. His name was proposed by Mr Hari Deo Joshi and seconded by Mr Hira Lal Devpura and Mr Jagannath Pahadia. Mr B. Shankaranand and Mr R.L. Bhatia attended the meeting as AICC-I observers. Two AIIC-I general secretaries, Mr G.K. Moopanar and Mr N.C. Chaturvedi were also present.

Gandhi Views PKF in Sri Lanka, Defense Needs

BK161619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has again said that the presence of the peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka aims at safeguarding the interests of the ethnic Tamils. He was speaking at the question-answer session with the students of Vishwabharati University at Shantiniketan today.

Mr Gandhi said if the PKF had not gone to the island, the situation would have been difficult for the people there. He said the PKF's presence would bring about enduring peace in the region.

Referring to India's defense needs, Mr Gandhi said the development of strategic areas of defense is absolutely essential and there cannot be any compromise on such issues. He said if India has to maintain its independence, unity, and integrity, it has to have a strong defense force.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that India's policy of nonalignment and nuclear disarmament has helped it earn a place in the comity of nations. Even the superpower, which considered nonalignment a bad word, has accepted the concept.

Turning to the country's economic scene, Mr Gandhi refuted the charge that the center is attaching more importance to the private sector at the cost of the public sector. He pointed out that the investment in the public sector has been doubled in the last 3 years.

Mr Gandhi admitted that there was a rise in the prices of essential commodities. But it became inevitable because of the prevailing severe drought conditions and due to the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations. He defended the government's reservation policy in education and employment and said this is necessary to help the economically and socially weaker sections of the society.

Domestic Production of T-72 Tanks Begins

BK190958 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The indigenously built new T-72 Ajay battle tank rolled out from the heavy vehicle factory Avadi near Madras today. The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, symbolically rolled out the first tank which was received by the chief of Army Staff, General K. Sunderji.

The defense minister described this tank, assembled with Soviet cooperation, as one of the best in the world with sophisticated and high technology. The tank, named Ajay, meaning invincible, has 125-mm fire power and mobility and is capable of protection to the crew to speed up all engagements.

The minister pointed out that the Army has been provided with the best weapons and equipment to enable them to perform the task of protecting the country efficiently.

The minister of state for defense, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, speaking on the occasion said all necessary modern technology are acquired from various sources and improved upon to suit our national interest. This, he pointed out, was part of fulfilling the national objective of self-reliance in defense.

Iran

Khomeyni Receives Families of Martyrs, Others

LD181243 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The imam of the ummah met this morning in Jamaran Hoseyniyeh with the families of martyrs, the missing, prisoners of war, and those disabled in the war from Lar in Fars, Bandar-e Anzali, (Bandar-e Dayyer), and Tehran. He also received officials and members of the public from Bushehr, Kangan, Khark, and Deyyer; the Friday imams from those towns; Majlis deputies from Bandar-e Anzali and Sowma'eh Sara; and members of the War Support Headquarters of the Construction Jihad from the base at Nuk.

Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative, supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs' Foundation, and deputy speaker of the Majlis, spoke during the audience. He discussed the blessings and repercussions of the religious opinions [fatvas] and views of his holiness the imam on the rules covering the powers of the government and the chief jurisconsult. He said: In terms of their significance, the recent opinions and guidelines from his holiness the imam on the government can only be compared to the Islamic revolution itself. He stressed: These historic opinions have given rise to an indescribable zeal and enthusiasm among the Islamic ummah. They have also forestalled a great deal of malicious talk by the enemies of Islam, who claim that Islam and its teachings are incapable of solving social and economic problems. Indeed, they have opened a new chapter in the life of Islam.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to the victories scored at the front by the warriors of Islam. He expressed his gratitude to the fighters of Islam, especially the triumphant soldiers involved in the "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations. At the same time, he voiced hope that the continuing operations of our Islamic warriors would deal deadly blows to Saddam's Zionist regime, and would lead to final victory for the army of Islam.

He praised the Islamic movement among the inhabitants of occupied Palestine, which is growing by the day, and honored the memory of Feda'iyan-e Islam [members of an Islamic group responsible for the assassination of a number of prime ministers and other officials during the shah's reign]. He paid special homage to militant clergyman, the martyr Navvab Safavi, and his fellow fighters Khalil Tahmasbi, Zolqadr, and Vahedi.

Ayatollah Karrubi voiced his appreciation for the devotion and self-sacrifice of the families of martyrs, the missing, the prisoners, and those crippled in the service of the Islamic revolution. He offered them the thanks, gratitude, congratulations, and condolences of his holiness the imam.

At the end of the audience, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments of those present.

Theologians Meet To Discuss 'Jurisconsult'

Executive Committee Elected

LD181245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to our correspondent, at today's seminar of Friday imams, Ayatollah Meshkini, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, Ayatollah Malakuti, and Ayatollah Taheri were elected members of the national seminar's executive committee. The participants are to clarify the imam's theological views on the absolute rule of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and the limits and powers of the Islamic government.

Khomeyni's Views Discussed

LD181422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Announcer-read report on the 18 January session of a nationwide meeting of Friday imams in Tehran]

[Text] We begin this hour's newscast with the questions discussed at a nationwide seminar in Tehran this morning on the codification of the jurisprudential views of the imam of the ummah concerning the absolute vice regency of the chief jurisconsult and the scope of an Islamic government's powers. The opening session of the seminar was attended by Friday imams from across the country; the staff of Imam Khomeyni's office; the imam's representatives in various parts of the country; the faculty of the Qom seminary; and members of the Council of Guardians and the Supreme Judicial Council.

Ayatollah Meshkini, the Friday imam of Qom, spoke first. He praised the recent uprising of Palestinian Muslims, which he described as most encouraging. He asked all the Muslims of the world to provide help and assistance to the Palestinian people, who have indeed been wronged. He called on our country's generous people to open a special account for this purpose. While offering his congratulations for the recent victories achieved by the warriors of Islam in their successful "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations, he praised the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the army of Islam. In his discussion of the concept of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult and government, Ayatollah Meshkini termed the issue as the most important duty of the prophets. He also described it as a very important Islamic issue, and one of our primary principles. While listing the subjects the seminar should raise, he examined the various aspects of jurisconsult, the need to form a government, spread Islamic culture, obey laws in order to preserve and improve society, and safeguard internal security and defend our borders. He said: If a nation wants to manage its own affairs, it needs a government. Ayatollah Meshkini added: The powers and prerogatives that have been delegated in the message of the Lord of the Faithful, peace be upon him, to Malek Ashtar [the man sent to rule Egypt] reflect the powers of an Islamic government.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Court, highlighted the need to recognize the significance of the questions of jurisconsult and government. He explained: In terms of their impact and importance, the recent religious opinions from his holiness the imam can only be compared to the revolution itself. He continued: The subject of our discussion is the government, and the outcome of our entire discussion will be highly significant for various sectors of the country.

The president of the Supreme Court declared: We should clarify the issue in a way that solves our country's problems. However, we have difficulties in many fields, including urban land, debts owed to banks, the labor law, and the laws governing eviction. We should conduct our discussions in a way that gives these problems priority. He stressed: The key to a solution of all our problems lies is in the clarification of this matter.

While emphasizing that the imam's remarks should be taken as the basis for discussion, the president of the Supreme Court stressed the need for exchange, investigation, and the expression of opinions in a free and scientific atmosphere.

The last speaker at this morning's session of the seminar was Ayatollah Taheri, the imam's representative and the Friday imam for Esfahan. He read messages from the book of jurisconsult by the imam of the ummah. He also covered the different dimensions of the imam's personality and his leadership of the Islamic ummah. In addition, he reviewed the recent religious opinions from the imam, noting: The Islamic Republic should be organized in a way that permits it to strike the arrogant and open its arms to the oppressed. He added: In fact, the imam's recent actions are no less important than the revolution itself. The revolution should have advanced shoulder to shoulder. [as heard] However, the imam waited and staged his revolution in good time. Now it is up to you to continue that revolution. He concluded by offering his congratulations to all the world's Muslims for the victorious "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations, and the recent uprising of Muslim Palestinians.

Musavi, Sane'i Deliver Speeches

LD191345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Announcer-read report on the 19 January session of a nationwide meeting of Friday imams in Tehran]

[Text] We begin this hour's newscast with the questions raised at the final session of the nationwide seminar on codifying the jurisprudential views of the imam of the ummah concerning the absolute vice regency of the jurisconsult and the scope of an Islamic government's power.

The 2d and last day of the national seminar attended by the country's Friday imams on the issue of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult and government ended with speeches by Prime Minister Musavi and Ayatollah Sane'i. The participants issued a resolution supporting the decrees of the imam of the ummah on the powers of Islamic government and the supreme jurisconsult.

At this morning's session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi referred to recent remarks by the imam of the ummah on the powers of an Islamic government. He noted: At this point, any discussion we may hold on the subject of Islamic government will affect the fate of the world's liberation movements. Today, in light of the conspiracies launched by world arrogance against the Islamic revolution, it is clear that only an Islamic government can satisfy human needs.

The prime minister added: The effectiveness of an Islamic government in fighting the enemies of Islam, be they world arrogance, the superpowers, or domestic splinter groups, has turned the hopes of others, especially foreigners, into despair. They hoped that the powers of an Islamic government would be limited, when, in fact, they are extensive and boundless. Through these discussions and clarifications, the scope of an Islamic government's powers will be clear in the future to everyone, at home and abroad.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Musavi said: In dealing with executive issues and problems, the government has always made national interests one of its top priorities, and has acted on the basis of principles agreed upon by all. The jurisprudential side of these matters has been, and is being examined by members of the clergy, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the authorities of the Council of Guardians.

Turning to government measures taken since 1360 [year beginning 21 March 1981] to develop the national economy, the prime minister noted: Ten committees were set up in 1360 to draft laws on the country's economic and social infrastructure. As a rule, there were two or three members of the clergy on each of those committees. Our decisions took nothing but the interests and issues of Islam into account.

Mr Musavi added: One power of governments around the world is their ability to exercise discriminatory [tab'izi] rights or policies, on taxation, for instance. The great excitement felt recently may be traced to the general belief that a path has been opened, and that the imam of the ummah has clarified the question of the supreme divine vice regency. As a result, we will see new enthusiasm and activity among our executive bodies.

After the prime minister spoke, the floor was taken by Ayatollah Sane'i, representative of the imam and Friday imam for Esfahan. He thanked the prime minister for his comments, noting: During this time, the government's innocence [mazlumiyyat] has been obvious to everyone. However, the imam of the ummah has now declared that government decrees are part of Islam's primary doctrine, in the same way that, after 23 years, at the end of his mission, the Prophet of Islam presented his teachings on the questions of imamate and leadership, which are among the most important pieces of instruction in Islam.

While expressing his appreciation for the presence of the Friday imams and for the prime minister's remarks on the issues of supreme jurisconsult and Islamic government, Ayatollah Sane'i pointed out: The supreme jurisconsult of innocent imams and leaders is not only God's teaching. It is a law like all others in the world, but its value is greater than all others.

In another part of his speech, Ayatollah Sane'i referred to the recent uprising of Palestinian Muslims against the Zionists. He declared: Today, Islam and the sovereignty of the vice regency of the jurisconsult have appeared in occupied Palestine and have revealed themselves there. Despite the use of all their resources, the enemies of Islam have been unable to prevent the concept from gaining influence.

Once Ayatollah Sane'i concluded his speech, a resolution containing seven articles was read, which the Friday imams approved by shouting: God is great. Part of the resolution said: The clear and explicit decree from the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, as well as his lucid and historic reply to the president's letter, have created a new revolution. It has sparked a fresh movement in the course of the sacred Islamic order, the valuable blessings of which will shed light not only on the present generation of Muslims, but on all future generations, as well.

Khomeyni Decrees Praised

LD191728 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 19 Jan 88

["Velayat Seminar Hails Imam's Decrees as Dynamic Scientific-Jurisprudential Development"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Friday prayer leaders from throughout the country issued a resolution here Tuesday, hailing the recent decree of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni as a solution to all existing legal, executive and judicial bottlenecks in the society.

The resolution, issued at the end of a two-day seminar on velayat [vice regency of the jurisconsult] and government, also stressed that the imam's decree should never be overshadowed by unnecessary and technical discussions.

It said that Imam Khomeyni's recent decree, issued in response to a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i, paved the way for Iranian officials to solve certain pressing problems plaguing the executive branch of the country.

It is necessary for all scientific centers and theological schools to study the imam's decree which is actually one of the dynamic scientific and jurisprudential developments, noted the resolution.

The resolution said that solving difficulties caused by differing attitudes on taxation, foreign trade policy, cooperative societies, private and public sectors, land, housing, inflation, banking issues and dozens of other complicated executive bottlenecks, could be among valuable blessings of this historical-divine message (imam's decree).

Elsewhere in the resolution, the Friday prayer leaders called on all Iranian men of letters, orators and other officials to seriously refrain from interpreting the 'clear' decree of the founder of the Islamic Republic in a misleading manner.

It also urged all managers in executive, planning, policy-making and judicial sectors to rid the Islamic revolution and Muslim people of the current bottlenecks plaguing the country.

Prime Minister Comments on Palestinians, War

LD171412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Musavi chaired a Cabinet session this morning. In a speech at the beginning of the session, he referred to the extensive resistance and struggle being waged by the Muslim Palestinian nation. He stated: The Islamic aspect of this movement frightens world arrogance and Zionism. Today all efforts are being directed at harnessing this Islamic movement.

Mr Musavi added: The superficial criticism of Israel's savage actions by Britain or the arrogant circles do not stem from their sympathy for the Palestinian people. Such criticism is the result of their fear of the spread of this Islamic wave in the Arab and Muslim world. Those superpowers, the ones which created the usurping Israel, should know that Islamic nations today consider the return to Islamic fundamentalism to be the only way to salvation. The Palestinian nation has discovered this way and will not lose it.

He added: We hope that all Palestinian political-military organizations and groups will stand behind the Islamic slogans of the Palestinian nation and conform to the wishes and goals of their people. The duty of all Muslims in the world today is to support and spread this Islamic movement. We hope that this movement will not only lead to the liberation of dear Jerusalem, but that its blessings will also affect the fate of all Muslims.

During the session, current national and international news and developments were discussed. The proud advances that have been made in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operation in northern Iraq and near the Sar Dasht sector were reported to the Cabinet by a military commander.

Discussions were then held on the bills and proposals submitted by the Majlis, which will be reviewed following the imam's decrees. Certain decisions were made with regard to the bills on foreign trade, the distribution system, the imposition of heavier sentences for bribery, and a number of other pieces of legislation.

According to this report, the Cabinet praised the number of forces dispatched from Hormozgan Province to the fronts where good and evil are battling. This number was greatly increased following the presence of NATO forces in the Persian Gulf, which shows the converse effect of the deployment of foreign forces, led by the United States, against our Muslim nation, especially the brave people of the coastal provinces.

Musavi-Ardabili Views Israeli Attack on Mosque

LD172302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Today's session of the Supreme Judicial Council began with Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili's condemnation of the recent barbarous attack by Zionist soldiers and executioners on those participating in Friday prayers in Al-'Aqsa Mosque. He also praised the brave uprising of revolutionary Palestinian Muslims, declaring: Palestinian Muslims have found their way. They are moving forward, inspired by the life-giving teachings of Islam and the Islamic revolution in Lebanon. They now realize that they should not sit around waiting for foreign powers and Arab reactionaries. On the contrary, having lost faith in the self-proclaimed defenders of human rights and by relying on Islam and divine assistance, they should continue their movement. God willing, they have strong hopes of victory.

This Islamic revolution among Palestinian Muslims was a practical response to the Amman conference, reactionary Arab leaders, and their treasonous decisions. At this critical time, when the lives and property of Palestinian Muslims are exposed each day to merciless massacre and plunder by Zionist executioners, those international organizations that claim to defend human rights should not simply content themselves with condemnations of those atrocities and expressions of their regrets. In fact, they should launch a quick campaign to protect their legitimate rights immediately.

As the session continued, the representative of the Supreme Judicial Council in the Voice and Vision submitted a report on the activities of that organization, and the council provided him with the necessary guidelines.

Prime Minister Chairs Economic Council Session

LD182301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Supreme Economic Council held a session this evening under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi. After a review of economic developments in the country, a report on the prospects for the national [word indistinct] economy over the next 10 years was studied. The document was prepared on the basis of a model designed by experts at the Ministry of Plan and Budget. The council suggested some ways to improve the model so as to give a more detailed picture of the country's economy in the future.

It was noted that the company charged with expanding commercial services has bought more than 20,000 tons of high-yield rice from farmers in the north thus far. The Supreme Economic Council highlighted the need to establish additional purchasing centers in various cities of Mazandaran Province.

At the close of today's session, the council agreed to put the construction of the second half of the Tabriz-Miandu'ab highway up for bids. The same action was taken in reference to the fifth section of the main road from Esfahan to Dorud.

Two Hizballah Officials Reportedly Detained

JN171536 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Iranian authorities have been holding two senior military officials from the Lebanese Hizballah in Tehran for more than 8 months. They are being detained for reasons related to their behavior concerning the hostage question in Lebanon.

According to reports in London from Tehran, the two military officials are Haj 'Abd al-Hadi Hammadi and Haj 'Imad Mughaniyah, whom the Western media have accused of kidnapping foreigners in Lebanon. They were summoned to Tehran from Beirut on the pretext of consultations, but have yet to return to Beirut. The reports note that Haj 'Abd al-Hadi Hammadi is the brother of Muhammad and 'Abbas 'Ali Hammadi, who are being held in the FRG on charges of transporting explosives and taking part in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA Boeing.

'Spy' Hanged for Role in Tehran Bombings

LD171812 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—A spy was hanged at Imam Khomeyni Square central Tehran at 16:00 (12:30 GMT) Sunday for exploding booby-trapped vehicles near the railway station and two other busy streets of the capital. Many passers-by were martyred and several others wounded in the bomb blasts.

The spy, indentified as Reza Nazari son of Ahmad, alias 'Ali Hassan had driven the vehicles to Tehran from Iraq, and later delivered them to his accomplices who booby-trapped and parked them in the said places.

In a communique released here Sunday, the Islamic revolution's Prosecutor General's Office said the hanged spy had been widely collaborating with the Ba'thist regime's secret service and antirevolutionary grouplets, especially the one led by the notorious bandit Sardar-Jaf. Nazari was in charge of one of the armed hideouts of the grouplet.

Meanwhile, three other saboteurs were hanged in the western border city of Bakhtaran Sunday, for spying for the Iraqi regime and setting off bombs. The hanged planted bombs in thoroughfares, martyring or wounding several passers-by.

Groups React to Iraqi Opposition Leader's Murder

Montazeri Offers Condolences

LD191740 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Qom, Jan 19, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri cabled a message to Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim Tuesday, expressing condolences to him and other family members of the late Grand Ayatollah Muhsin al-Hakim for the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim in Sudan by Iraqi agents.

Elsewhere in his message, the future leader of the Islamic revolution expressed hope that the blood of martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Iraq will soon bear its fruits and the rule of Islam will prevail all over Iraq once the Ba'thist regime is toppled.

Hoj. Mahdi al-Hakim, brother of head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, was gunned down by Iraqi agents at a hotel in Khartoum, Sudan, Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the Tehran-based bureau of Lebanon's Hizballah group released a statement here today, saying that only escalation of struggle against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime will avenge the blood of martyr Mahdi al-Hakim.

The statement holding the Khartoum Government responsible for tracing and arresting the assassins, called on Sudan to follow up the issue regardless of the pressures exerted on it by those responsible for the crime and their masters.

The Tehran-based Temporary Secretariat of the Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation also charged the Iraqi regime and other mercenaries of global arrogance for the assassination of Mahdi al-Hakim. It called on the Sudanese Government to identify and arrest the assassins.

Foreign Ministry Statement

NC190705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement offering its condolences for, and congratulations to all the world's Muslims on the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim at the hands of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's agents in Sudan. The declaration is directed to the Muslim people of Iraq in particular, and to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Iraqi fighters, and the great house of Al-Hakim.

The statement from the Islamic Republic of Iran notes that this catastrophe has added a new chapter to the black history of crimes committed by the Iraqi regime against the Iraqi people, ulema, scholars, and warriors of the Muslim world. It emphasizes that the people of the world, as well as the Muslim people of Iraq, are aware of the innumerable atrocities of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, which they have seen at close range. The martyring of Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr and his noble sister, the martyring of the offspring of His Eminence Ayatollah al-Hakim, and the assassination of fighters and Iraqi Muslim students in various countries in past years are evidence of the bestiality and fundamental hatred which the Iraqi regime harbors for the true religion of Islam and its ulema, its false and deceptive propaganda notwithstanding.

Without the support of world oppression, the ruling regime in Iraq would not dare to continue such acts of international terrorism or to violate the sovereignty of other countries as it has. The abuse of diplomatic immunity by this regime in implementing its antihuman plans is well known on the international scene. Thus, it is no suprise that the martyr Mahdi al-Hakim, who was a guest of Sudan's National Islamic Front, has become the target of Ba'thist Iraqi agents in Sudan.

The declaration stresses that now, as never before, we must meet the need for a coordinated and concerted effort by organizations and international bodies, and by all in the world who love freedom, to condemn and confront the terrorist tactics of the Iraqi regime within that country and internationally.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all Muslims of the world to rise up against this inhuman act, to condemn this heinous atrocity, and to demand that the perpetrators be punished. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests that the Sudanese Government take firm and speedy measures to identify and punish the perpetrators of this disaster. It stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran offers its full and multifaceted support to Iraq's revolutionaries, and is confident that the blood of martyr Mahdi al-Hakim, shed unlawfully, will not be in vain. Rather, it will make the Muslim Iraqi nation more determined to topple the dictatorial ruling regime.

Iraqi 'Supreme Assembly' Cited

LD181734 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) today called the assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim in Khartoum as a new addition to the bloody crimes of Saddam's (Husayn) regime, and urged the Sudanese Government to order immediate probe to apprehend and punish the Iraqi terrorists who committed the act.

SAIRI also announced that it will continue its rightful struggle till the overthrow of the aggressive Ba'thist regime and establishment of the rule of justice by an Islamic government in Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim attained martyrdom when he was shot by two Iraqi Ba'thist agents Sunday night in a Khartoum hotel.

Hoj Mahdi al-Hakim and his brother 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Hakim, who had come to Khartoum from London to attend an Islamic conference being held there, were attacked by the enemies of Islam while returning after attending its session at the Hotel Hilton auditorium.

Mahdi al-Hakim was the son of the late Grand Ayatollah Muhsin al-Hakim and elder brother of the SAIRI head Hojjat ol-Eslam Baqir al-Hakim.

After being charged in 1969 for conspiring to overthrow the un-Islamic Ba'thists who had recently seized power in Iraq, Mahdi al-Hakim secretly left for Pakistan and thence to the UAE, Syria and Lebanon. He ultimately settled in London and was serving as the chairman of the Ahl al-Bayt Society there at the time of his martyrdom in Sudan.

Iraqis Protest at Sudanese Embassy

LD191645 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 19, (IRNA)—Hundreds of Iraqis residing in the capital gathered in front of the Sudan Embassy here and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the Iraqi Ba'thist agents involved in the assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim.

In a resolution issued in front of the embassy, the Iraqi Muslim demonstrators condemned the assassination and called for its official condemnation by the Government of Sudan.

The resolution, addressed to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, was handed to Sudan's Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman Hamra by a representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI).

It stressed that cooperation of the Government of Sudan in tracing the criminals and in disclosing the role of the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum, will further consolidate ties between the peoples of Iraq and Sudan.

Meanwhile, Sudanese charge d'affaires here Hassan Ahmad came out among the demonstrators and assured that his government has started necessary measures to identify the criminals.

He promised that Sudan's embassy will immediately send the text of the resolution to Khartoum and will inform the demonstrators of Prime Minister al-Mahdi's reply.

At the end of the demonstration five SAIRI representatives met the embassy officials to submit the resolution to the Ambassador Ahmad Hamra, and to hold talks on investigations over the crime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim was martyred by two Iraqi agents Sunday night in a Khartoum hotel. He was the son of late Grand Ayatollah Muhsin al-Hakim and elder brother of the SAIRI head Hojjat ol-Eslam Baqir al-Hakim and had come to Khartoum from London to attend an Islamic conference.

Iraqi Groups Cable Al-Mahdi

LD191859 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 19, IRNA—Four Iraqi opposition groups here sent a message to the Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today calling on him to trace the murderers of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim, and also break ties with the Iraqi regime.

The groups, representatives of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Al-Rafidayn Islamic Movement, Iraqi Mujahidin Movement, and Iraqi dissidents residing in Syria, submitted the message to the Sudanese ambassador to Damascus.

Letters and statements still continue to be released by different groups and movements inside and outside Iran condemning Iraqi Ba'thist regime for assassinating Hoj. Al-Hakim.

Hoj. Mahdi al-Hakim a leading activist against the Ba'thist regime, ever since its seizure of power in Baghdad (1969) was gunned down Sunday night in Khartoum, where he was to attend an Islamic conference.

Iraqi Students Vow Revenge

LD190738 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 19, IRNA—In a cable to Imam Khomeyni Monday, the Union of Iraqi Muslim Students (UIMS) condoled him for the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim.

The union announced the readiness of its members for avenging the martyrdom of Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim upon Iraqi Ba'thist criminals in Khartoum, Sudan.

It also deplored the assassination as a heinous crime and called on the Sudanese Government to show concern about the issue and do its best to identify and arrest the perpetrators of the crime.

In related news the Supreme Council of Lebanese Shi'ites in a statement Monday deplored the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim and said the assassination had adverse effects on the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and on the jihad (holy war) in the Islamic and Arab world.

The vice chairman of the Supreme Council of Lebanese Shi'ites Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din telexed messages of condolence to Imam Khomeyni, to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), and to SAIRI's head Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Unidentified Iraqi agents assassinated Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim in a hotel in Khartoum Sunday.

In another development, Iraqi Muslims in London raided Iraq's cultural bureau in the city in retaliation for the assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim, inflicting heavy damage on the bureau.

An Iraqi agent in charge of the bureau was also injured in the attack which occured at 14:30 local time Monday. The attackers broke the windows of the bureau and tore off portraits of Saddam Husayn. One attacker was also injured.

Lebanese Muslims in 'Mourning'

LD200822 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 20, IRNA—Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim's assassination by unidentified Iraqi agents at his hotel in Khartoum Sunday has fermented disgust and hatred among Lebanese Muslims against the Iraqi regime.

The supreme assembly of Lebanese Shi'ites in a statement here Tuesday comdemned the assassination and announced three days of mourning in Beirut's Ja'fari Dar al-Fatwa from Wednesday.

The Lebanese Hizballah also telexed messages of condolence to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and to the head of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Lebanese Hizballah said that the assassination betrays "the bankruptcy of the bloodthirsty Baghdad regime" and that "the martyrdom of this pious alim at the

present status of Muslims' struggles against irreligion will entail but a further spread of the roaring wave of Islam and destruction of Ba'thist heathens."

Head of Amal Movement Nabih Birri also cabled messages to Imam Khomeyni and SAIRI's head expressing his condolence (and congratulations) on the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim. In his messages, Birri has stressed the adamantime jihad of the Muslim ummah and their commitment to destroying the Zionist regime and Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

The spokesman for the Middle East chapter of the Islamic Da'wah Party in Beirut said Tuesday that the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim indicates the enmity of Baghdad with Islam and ulema and betrays "its insatiable thirst for shedding the blood of oppressed Muslims of Iraq." The spokesman said that the assassination warrants a bigger struggle against the 'Afalqi' (Iraqi) regime, and that the Lebanese Muslims join cause with the Iraqis and "promise to punish their enemies wherever they may be."

Bani-Sadr Cites Khomeyni Accord With Israel

JN190845 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, any aggression by the Khomeyni regime against Iraq at the present time will be part of an agreement between that regime and the Zionist entity.

In an exclusive interview with the Baghdad radio correspondent in Paris today, Bani-Sadr added that he has information about an accord between the Zionist authorities and the Iranian regime. As part of the deal, the Zionist authorities have asked the Tehran regime to attack Iraqi territory so as to distract the international public from occupied Palestine, where the Palestinian people's uprising continues.

Bani-Sadr noted that any Khomeyniite act of aggression, as well as any skirmishes begun by the Khomeyni regime in the Gulf, are designed to cover up the crime which the Zionist entity is preparing to commit in occupied Palestine. Bani-Sadr added: In 1982, the Khomeyni regime got us accustomed to its provision of services to the Zionist entity. On the basis of a prior agreement, the Khomeyni regime facilitated the invasion of Lebanon and the siege of Beirut by Zionist forces through a diversion of attention to events in the Gulf, and by embroiling the Arabs in a war on their eastern border.

Referring to UN Security Council Resolution 598, Bani-Sadr remarked: Iran's rulers are not talking about the resolution, as they intend to launch an act of aggression in order to draw attention away from occupied Palestine.

Bani-Sadr called on the Iranian regime to accept an immediate peace. He described peace as an urgent task for the entire Gulf region.

When asked about the power struggle within Iran, Bani-Sadr replied: Khomeyni admitted his abysmal failure in his recent message. He must leave now and relieve us of his evil.

U.S. Trying To Cut Gulf Presence 'Gradually'

LD191257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1123 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] A report published recently by the UN secretary general on the Persian Gulf clearly states that the number of ships attacked in the region this year was 50 percent higher than last year. At the same time, the number of Iraqi strikes against merchant vessels has increased, while the Reagan administration has sent a considerable number of warships and other units to the region on the pretext of maintaining and guaranteeing security and the flow of oil.

However, the interesting point here is that during this period, there was clear and undeniable evidence of intelligence sharing between the American forces and the Iraqi aggressors. This facilitated the latter's attacks on merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf, leading to an unprecedented jump in strikes by Iraqi aircraft. Basically, the arrival of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf was designed not to preserve security or guarantee the flow of oil, but to offer practical support to the aggressor Iraqi regime, put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and make up for the disgrace resulting from the failure of McFarlane's trip to Tehran.

Reagan's military adviser openly admitted this fact in an interview in Italy not long ago. After recounting the effect which the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf has had in contributing to Iraq's attacks on Iran, he clearly stated that Iraq must continue its strikes in the Persian Gulf and thus somehow limit a war which he claimed Iran was trying to spread.

Moreover, regardless of this undeniable fact, the extensive presence of U.S. and European forces in the Persian Gulf has virtually brought alive the possibility of extremely serious and widespread clashes in this sensitive region.

In any case, the reality of events in the past few months is practical proof that the presence of aggressor U.S. and European forces in the Persian Gulf not only spreads and aggravates today's clashes in this sensitive area, but poses an extremely serious and fundamental danger to the region's future. In addition, it is perfectly clear that if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, it will not be confined to the two warring sides. Rather, it will quickly engulf all the Iraqi regime's protectors and the real warmongers in this fiasco.

Therefore, while noting the dangerous consequences of the presence of U.S. and European forces in this critical region, the states along the shores of the Persian Gulf should move quickly to halt their support and assistance, which seeks to increase the American and European presence, and pave the way for the departure of those forces.

Recent remarks by certain American officials are a practical indication of the depth of the internal conflict within the U.S. ruling clique over events in the Persian Gulf. In light of that country's upcoming presidential elections, and by resorting to such excuses as the deficit in the defense budget and the need to adapt the workforce to present conditions, the Reagan administration is trying to gradually reduce its forces in this sensitive and hazardous region and somehow lay the groundwork for their departure.

U.S. Considered Interception of Arms Shipments

LD191907 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 19, IRNA—The Reagan administration contemplated military plans to intercept arms supplies reaching Iran by sea in the past few weeks, says a report from Washington.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES Tuesday, the plans were drafted by the Pentagon but rejected after deciding that the idea was "probably illegal and diplomatically unwise."

"National security officials discussed the plans, which were not directed at a specific shipment, but never recommended them to President Reagan," it said.

The paper quoted officials at the Defense Department, State Department and in Congress holding different views on how serious the proposal was but felt that even such a thought did show "how seriously the U.S. views the continued supply of weapons."

The officials further referred to the plan illustrating how limited the American options are for ending military shipments reaching Iran.

Washington has acknowledged the failure of its "Operation Staunch" launched back in 1983 to discourage arms sales to Iran and its more recent initiative at the U.N. has been bogged down for the last six months.

Military embargoes have repeatedly been shown to be ineffectual and the focus of attention on Iran has only revealed the strength of Tehran's domestically-produced arms industry, which has grown from nothing since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The NEW YORK TIMES said that U.S. officials recognised that the latest measures would have been "difficult to justify under international law" and said that it would also have "called into question American neutrality" it claims in the Iraqi war.

Proposed UN Arms Embargo Will Be 'Ineffective'

LD151755 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Semnan, Jan. 15, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Brigadier General 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi announced here Thursday that a proposed arms embargo against Iran by the U.N. Security Council will be 'ineffective' since the Islamic Republic has the necessary weapons of its own to deploy at the imposed-war's fronts.

Brig. Gen. Sayyad-Shirazi speaking in a gathering of local people here marking the first anniversary of the martyrs of Karbala-5 operations, adverted [as received] to the plots hatched by global arrogance. The real objective of bringing 80 warships in the Persian Gulf by the U.S. and its NATO allies was to save Saddam (Husayn) from his imminent downfall.

Official on Progress in Munitions Production

LD182311 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Iran has left Iraq far behind regarding manufacture of ammunitions, in the wake of pressures of the imposed war, said an official from the defense industries here today.

The official said Iran is now one of the few countries and probably ranks seventh or eighth in the world in terms of mass production of munitions. "Thanks to our preplanned projects we would probably be among the five leading countries in the field of manufacturing munitions in the next two years", he said.

There is no munitions for the manufacture of which technology does not exist in Iran or has not been put into operational phase inside the country, disclosed the official. Iran has the necessary technology for manufacturing munitions and not simply the technique of assembling them, he added.

He said the defense industries are now producing different types of military spare parts, whose exports to Iran are likely to be embargoed, pointing "we have put into operation new phases of production in order to replace the imported munitions."

Committed Iranian specialists have gradually filled the vacuum of technical knowhow after foreign military advisors were expelled following the 1979 islamic revolution. Today they have overcome all problems to the extent that there are no munitions for which technology is not available in the Islamic Republic, said the official.

"We are confident of foiling all enemy plots in the future by manufacturing all our munitions needs, and stock them in out depots" he stressed.

Gulf States To Continue Iraq 'War Relief' Plan

LD171825 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 17, IRNA—War relief supplies of crude oil from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will continue in 1988, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY has reported.

The Nicosia based weekly said that the new contracts will again total 125,000 barrels per day (pbd) of Khafji crude from Kuwait and the same amount of Saudi Arabian Khafji crude plus another 60,000 bpd of Arabian light and is to be repaid by the Iraqi regime once its war against Islamic Iran ends.

Iran has repeatedly called upon the Persian Gulf states to be neutral in Iraq's war or otherwise they would have to be prepared to face the consequences.

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned Arab rulers again Friday that should they hear the sound of trumpets of war on their radios then it would be too late to repent their mischief.

Further on 'Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2' Operations

4 Counterattacks 'Crushed'

LD201109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In repulsing four desperate counterattacks by the Zionist enemy in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operational area last night and this morning, the warriors of Islam inflicted additional losses and casualties on Iraq's disintegrating army.

The general staff of the three forces of the IRGC has announced in a communique: After regrouping its scattered forces and deploying its commando units, including the Presidential Guard, as well as its planes and helicopters, the defeated Iraqi Army launched four counterattacks last night and this morning. It did so in the hope of retaking areas lost during the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-2" actions. However, thanks to the vigilance and courage of the fighters of Islam, heavy artillery support from the Guards Corps, and the selfless efforts of the brave pilots of the ground forces' airborne division, all the counterattacks were repulsed and completely crushed.

While smashing these counterattacks, the victorious warriors of the corps of monotheism killed or wounded more than 500 enemy troops, while another 20 misguided Saddamists were taken prisoner. Our fighters also set ablaze and destroyed large quantities of enemy arms and equipment.

The warriors of Islam are now consolidating their positions, and are ready to crush any move in the region by the Zionist enemy.

Iraqi POW's Interviewed

LD171547 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas Operational Theater, Jan. 17, IRNA—Iranian reporters visited here Sunday a large group of Iraqi POWs captured during the Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations launched by Iran's Muslim combatants around the liberated Mawat region, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province early Friday.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Muhammad, the commander of an Iraqi unit of Brigade 83 in an interview with reporters described Iranian treatment of Iraqi POWs as "humane".

He also confessed that Iraqi troops had never expected Iranian combatants to launch such a lightning attack in this rugged mountainous area in such unfavorable cold weather conditions.

The POW said that Muslim combatants of Iran broke through all Iraqi concrete obstacles in the early hours of their thrust before besieging the surprised Ba'thist soldiers.

He said that his brigade commander Naqib Latif Jasim Husayn was captured and his deputy Captain Naqib Muhammad 'Abd al-Dawud was killed during the operations.

Communique No 3,086 Notes Ground, Air Actions

LD191633 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Iran's Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Monday lending support to the Navy in spite of two warnings from foreign ships, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 3086 of the Joint Staff Command said yesterday Iranian naval forces intercepted 10 foreign tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Several Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when Iranian Muslim combatants subjected enemy fortifications to their artillery and mortar fire throughout the fronts Monday, destr ying parts of enemy positions, said the communique.

Four Iraqi patrol groups attempting to penetrate Iranian positions in Panjwin, and 'Eyn Khvosh operational regions yesterday were forced to flee sustaining casualties, it added.

Iraqi engineering activities, including consolidation of positions and installing of barbed-wire fenses were brought to a halt by the Muslim combatants fire in Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Helaleh, Mehran, Nahr-e Anbar and 'Eyn Khvosh Monday, said the communique.

The Muslim combatants, it added, also prevented Iraqi troops from landing fresh forces in Hoseyniyeh region.

The communique said that Iraqi units incurred heavy casualties when the Muslim borces of Iran halted movements of enemy vehicle columns in Mehran, Kani Shaykh, Helaleh, Nahr 'Anbar, 'Eyn Khvosh and Yabis yesterday.

In the southern fronts Iran's gendarmerie forces inflicted casualties and damage on Iraqi forces Monday setting ablaze some gun-emplacements of theirs, it concluded.

Electricity Pylons Destroyed

LD191831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] According to Ramadan Headquarters, which directs the IRGC's irregular warfare operations, Imam Khomeyni's forces under the command of the Badr-9 Division mamnaged to destroy three high-voltage electricity pylons last week. The pylons linked the cities of Kifri and (Tuskhormatun) in Iraq's Kirkuk [as heard] Province. Their destruction plunged Kifri into total darkness.

Iraqi KDP Leader Reviews 'Zafar-5' Operation

LD171846 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Jan. 17, IRNA—The victorious Zafar-5 operations launched inside the northern Iraqi provinces of Kirkuk and Dahuk by Iranian forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters, in league with Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) peshmergas will have a great impact on Iraq's political future, said KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani.

Barzani told the Central News Bureau (CNB) here Saturday, the success of the Zafar-5 operations launched in unsuitable weather with heavy snow and extreme cold blanketing the region, has not only humiliated the Ba'thist forces but also revived hopes of a quick victory in the hearts of the oppressed people of Kurdistan.

An Iraqi battalion was demolished and over 200 Ba'thist forces were captured in the first five minutes of the blitz launched in the strategic Chamchamal region which was recently depopulated of its local Kurdish inhabitants and settled by Arab tribes, by the regime he said.

In the second phase of the operations launched in Dahuk the following night, Barzani said, all enemy bases and installations in Dayr Luk were destroyed. He added that over 1,300 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and 300 others captured when four battalions of the Iraqi Army were completely routed. More than 1,000 weapons of various types were seized intact by the joint forces, he noted.

"We witnessed in Dahuk and Irbil the local people's enthusiasm. They left their doors open so that peshmergas could take refuge in the houses" he said adding "this shows not only the righteousness of our struggle but also the sign of Iraqi people's hatred of Saddam's (Husayn) regime."

Barzani warned merceneries fighting for the Ba'thist regime to immediately desert enemy ranks and join the people's struggle. Because, he concluded, there will be no room for them in Iraq when the final victory is attained.

Pakistan

Frontier Gandhi Ghaffar Dies in Peshawar 20 Jan

BK200444 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] We regret to announce the death of the Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Peshawar this morning. He was 98. Badshah Khan was in a state of coma for almost 6 months. He was undergoing treatment in India last year and was shifted to Peshawar on the 16th of August.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reports from Islamabad that the Frontier Gandhi's body will be taken to Jalalabad in Afghanistan for burial on Friday. Flags on government office buildings are flying at half-mast as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Condolences

BK200835 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, have condoled the death of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. In a message to his son, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the president said he was deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of his father. He said Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a veteran politician and a dedicated social worker who remained wedded to his [words indistinct] and political philosophy all his life. He longed and worked for restructuring the society according to his own vision and created a following of his own. The president said history knows only a few persons who spent nearly a century in pursuit of a mission they cherished. He prayed to the Almighty Allah for the blessings of his soul and granting fortitude to the bereaved family and his followers to bear this loss.

The prime minister in his message to Khan Abdul Wali Khan said he was grieved to learn of the passing away of his father. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said he was a

politician of long standing whose death brings an eventful life to an end. He was known for the struggle against the British rule in the erstwhile India. The prime minister prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest his soul in peace and grant Khan Abdul Wali Khan and other members of the family the strength to bear this loss with patience.

India's Gandhi Pays Respects

BK201019 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who arrived in Peshawar this afternoon, went to Jinnah Park to have a last glimpse of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. He placed wreaths at the body of the Khudai Khidmatgar [servant of God, as Ghaffar Khan was called]. The Indian prime minister was accompanied by some of his ministers. They also expressed their condolences to Khan Abdul Wali Khan. From Jinpah Park, they went to the Governor House. Rajiv Gandhi later returned to India. Northwest Frontier Province Governor Fida Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan had earlier received the Indian prime minister on his arrival at Peshawar.

Sind Cabinet Reviews Situation In Karachi

BK200240 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Sind cabinet met in Karachi yesterday to review the law and order situation in the province. Provincial Chief Minister Syed Ghouse Ali Shah, who presided over the meeting, reiterated that law enforcement agencies will be made stronger and more effective so that they can protect the life and property of law-abiding citizens.

A press note issued by the Karachi city commissioner last night says that the overall situation in all four divisions of Karachi District remain normal. In the Zohrabad police station area, however, a truck ran over a boy who later succumbed to his injuries. Following this incident, a large crowd of people gathered at the scene and set fire to the truck and a nearby garage, causing damage to them both.

Junejo Explains Need for Nuclear Technology

BK190536 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo told a delegation of international physicians for the prevention of nuclear war in Rawalpindi last evening that Pakistan believes in nuclear nonproliferation and the elimination of nuclear weapons. He expressed hope that India would respond positively to Pakistan's proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in this region.

The prime minister stated that Pakistan is interested in nuclear technology for meeting its electricity needs and enhancing its agricultural output. Seventy percent of the country's population lives in villages, and the government wants to supply pure drinking water and electricity to them for the welfare of the rural population.

Noorani on Sri Lanka Relations, Kashmir Stand

BK190858 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan leadership has consistently assured Pakistan that there will be no change in its policy, especially its relations with Pakistan even after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of July last year. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in the National Assembly during the question hour this morning. He said our relations with Sri Lanka continue to remain warm and friendly. The two countries have identity of views on most regional and international issues and have sought to enlarge bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural, educational, and technical fields.

In reply to a question, the minister of state said the Kashmir issue is still in the priorities of our foreign policy. It figured consistently in the policy statements delivered by the leaders of Pakistani delegations at the UN General Assembly every year. He said Pakistan has maintained that Jammu and Kashmir dispute should be resolved on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Sri Lanka

8 Freed by LTTE Surrender to Authorities

BK200324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 8 of the 55 prisoners of Batticaloa prison, who were freed by LTTE men yesterday, have surrendered to the authorities. The acting commissioner of the prison, Mr Dharmadasa, told our Colombo correspondent that two of the eight prisoners who surrendered got themselves admitted to the Batticaloa hospital. He denied reports that the prison was stormed and said there were no armed guards to protect the jail in view of the prevailing security situation. The LTTE, he said, threatened the unarmed prison officials and walked in. They asked the prisoners, who were petty criminals, to flee at gunpoint. There were no LTTE men detained in the jail. The LTTE also threatened to blow up the jail if it continued to function. The prison officials said the peacekeeping force has now provided protection.

Opposition Comments on Minister's Resignation

BK191244 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 19 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel's resignation pressing for early elections has heightened opposition to the government, analysts here said Tuesday.

"Peace and elections, elections and peace. This is the only salvation for this country," Mr. De Mel, 62, said in a farewell address to senior officials and reporters just before leaving his ministry office Monday.

Sri Lanka's opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said Mr. De Mel's action had weakened the Colombo cabinet and he expected more ministers to resign.

"Our argument for early elections has been greatly strengthened by Mr. De Mel's resignation. We should obtain his help in pressing for our demand (for elections)," Mr. Bandaranaike said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The main opposition groups led by Mr. Bandaranaike's Freedom Party have demanded elections since the government held a referendum in 1982 to extend the term of parliament instead of holding general elections.

"There are too many divisions and contradictions within the cabinet. The government is on its last legs. I strongly feel the government will be forced to hold a general election in the next six months," Mr. Bandaranaike said.

Polls are due by June next year.

Mr. De Mel is the second minister to quit the cabinet in three months over a policy issue, officials said. Agricultural Minister Gamani Jayasuriya left the government in November protesting a New Delhi-backed peace pact giving greater autonomy to the island's Tamil minority.

Mr. De Mel has said that only early elections would help restore peace in the strife-torn island nation.

"We didn't agree with Mr. De Mel's economic policies. He made a terrible mess, but he was a very important minister in the UNP (United National Party) government," Mr. Bandaranaike said.

Officials and political sources said the resignation had also plunged the Colombo cabinet into a crisis in finding a replacement for Mr. De Mel who held his post for 10 years.

Mr. De Mel gave no reason for leaving but political analysts said he was under pressure to quit the cabinet after his statements challenging the legitimacy of President Junius Jayewardene's 10-year rule.

Mr. De Mel, a key figure behind the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact aimed at ending nearly five years of ethnic strife in the island nation, told his constituents Monday he would continue to work for the "oppressed people."

He said he would retain his parliamentary seat and membership in the UNP.

Official sources said the president had dropped Mr. De Mel from the party's policy-making executive committee.

Mr. Jayewardene called for an explanation of Mr. De Mel's "violation of cabinet conventions," amid pressure from other ministers urging his removal.

Rivalries have been brewing in the Colombo cabinet for some time now between senior ministers vying to succeed the 82-year-old president, observers said.

The latest rift focuses on a ban on a Sinhalese extremist group. Mr. De Mel and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa are campaigning to lift a ban on the Janatha Vimukti Peramina (JVP—People's Liberation Front), which is violently opposed to the government.

But the president is strongly resisting the pressure and has accused the JVP of trying to assassinate him by lobbing grenades at a meeting of MP's he was addressing in parliament in August.

Hungarian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

BK180931 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0855 GMT 18 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 18 (LANKA PUWATH)—Dr. Gabor Nagy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday at the invitation of Tyronne Fernando, Sri Lankan deputy minister of foreign affairs, as a guest of the government, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told LANKA PUWATH.

Dr. Nagy called on Fernando this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had official talks on matters of bilateral, regional and international interest.

Dr. Nagy was accompanied by Istvan Debreczeni, deputy director-general, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ferenc Juri, attache Hungarian Embassy in New Delhi accredited to Sri Lanka. Associated with Fernando were N.M.M.I. Hulsain, director-general, political affairs, G.D.I.G. Seneiratne, director-general, economic affairs, Mrs H. Abeysekaran, director west, and Pralad Kariyawasam, director west.

Dr Nagy briefed Fernando on the political and economic developments in Hungary and Fernando availed himself of the opportunity to explain to Dr. Nagy the causes that led to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka [word indistinct] determined [word indistinct] of the government to reach a political solution acceptable to all concerned.

He also apprised him of the salient features of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

Dr. Nagy expressed his government's understanding of the problem and its appreciation of the steps taken towards a solution which it welcomed.

The two deputy foreign ministers agreed to maintain contact and a continuing dialogue with a view to further strengthening and expanding the existing friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Hungary.

President Jayewardene To Visit India 26 Jan

BK1811581 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene will be visiting as a chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations to be held in New Delhi on the 26th of this month. Mr Jayewardene is visiting India at the invitation of Indian President R. Venkataraman.